THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 10, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

A man wearing a mask walks through a crowded walkway in Kochi | A SANESH

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NATIONWIDE COVID READINESS DRILL IN HOSPITALS TODAY

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will visit AIIMS, Jhajjar on Monday to oversee the drill, officials said

32,814

ACTIVE CASES AT SIX-MONTH HIGH

Both public and private hospitals from all districts are expected to take part in the two-day event, which will assess the availability of specially-designated hospital beds, stock of medicines, equipment and oxygen

The assessment comes as India recorded **5,400** fresh Covid cases on Sunday, which took the number of active cases to **32,814**

CENTRE ASKS STATES TO DO MORE TESTING

23 states

the average tests per million people were below the national average, a statement by the Union health ministry said

In a recent meeting with state health ministers, Mandaviya said the five-fold strategy of 'test-track-treat-vaccinate and adherence to Covid protocols' will continue to guide Covid management

11 more deaths

take toll to 5,30,965

Three deaths were reported from Gujarat, **two** from Himachal Pradesh, **one** each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala

Kerala tops the chart with 12K active cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

WITH 1,750 to 1,900 fresh cases per day, Kerala is reporting the highest number of daily Covid infections in the country. Active Covid cases crossed the 12,000-mark in the state as of Sunday, prompting the health department to keep a close watch on hospital occupancy. Maharashtra and Delhi are the other states reporting a huge number of daily cases — around 500 per day.

Health officials said hospital occupancy in Kerala saw a rise in the last week. While most cases are mild, 1.2% of the patients required ICU beds and fewer than 1% required oxygen support, they said. Test positivity rate — the percentage of people testing positive for Covid — is over 10% in at least 10 districts. Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam are reporting the maximum cases.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EDUCATION EXPRESS edex YOUR LIFE COACH

ANNOUNCEMENT

Edex is back in print, this time on the back page of the main book. It will appear every Monday starting today. Happy reading. - *Editor*

India earns its stripes, tiger population at 3,167

Central Indian Highlands, Eastern Ghats hosts highest population of 1,161 big cats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

INDIA has emerged as a leader in the conservation of wild tigers, as the population of the big cat in the country has almost doubled since 2006 to cross the 3,000-mark. According to the tiger status data, revealed by PM Narendra Modi during the commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger at the KSOU Convention Hall here on Sunday, the minimum population estimate of tigers in the country is 3,167, a rise of 1,756 big cats in just one-and-a-half decades.

The data revealed that 70 per cent of the tiger population of the world is in India, which has 53 tiger reserves. The fifth cycle of the All-India Tiger Estimation (2022) covered forested habitats in 20 states with a foot survey of over 6,41,449 km for carnivore signs and prey abundance estimation. Camera traps were placed at 32,588 locations, resulting in 4,70,81,881 photographs, of which 97,399 were of tigers. In all, 6,41,102 man-days were invested for the survey, which is the world's largest effort for any wildlife assessment till date.

The Nilgiris cluster, which stretches from Nagarahole to BRT Hills in the Western Ghats landscape, houses the largest tiger population in the world, and has contributed significantly to the colonisation of tigers in neighbouring areas, the data revealed. The region with habitat restoration and anti-poaching measures has helped stabilise the tiger population. Also, a significant reduction in tiger occupancy has been observed throughout the landscape and colonisation of tigers in the northern parts of the Western Ghats, indicating good connectivity across the landscape from Nilgiris Cluster to BRT, including Nagarhole, Wayanad and Bandipur.

The Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats landscape has the highest population of 1,161 tigers, and it is the best tiger habitat in the country with conservation efforts from Odisha, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in protecting the core areas.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Experts ask why partial report released

Experts and forest department officials have questioned why a partial all India Tiger Estimate report was released as the final report will be released in July. **P5**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a photo before a safari at Bandipur Tiger Reserve during commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger | UDAYASHANKAR S

Oscar stars seek houses for tribals at elephant camp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

BELLIE, the star of the Oscar-winning documentary -- The Elephant Whisperers, requested PM Narendra Modi on Sunday to provide houses for all the adivasis living in Theppakadu Elephant Camp and to help with the education of tribal children in the region.

Modi visited the elephant camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu after a safari at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve. He met Bomman and Belli, who have dedicated their life to caring for orphan elephants, and felicitated them for their noble service. The documentary film based on the couple won the Oscar award recently.

Talking to TNIE, Bellie said she is happy that Modi visited and felicitated them. "I requested Modi for houses for all the adivasis in the camp, good roads and education for all the children of adivasis. The Prime Minister asked me to visit the district collector's office and get help. Modi said he will direct the authorities to attend to our problems," she added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Belli and Bomman during his visit to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve on Sunday

She also said that Modi invited them to his residence in New Delhi.

Bomman said he was thrilled after Modi sat next to him and put his hand around his shoulder."We also requested laptops for our children who are pursuing education. The PM assured us he would look into our demands," he said.

Bomman said the credit for their achievement should go to the elephant calf which brought them the Oscar award. "This is also a recognition for the forest department and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve," he said.

INSIDE K'TAKA COULD BE A TIGER STATE | P5

GAIL reduces prices of piped gas, CNG by ₹7

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN line with the Union government's guidelines to pass on new domestic gas pricing benefits to its customers, GAIL Gas Ltd is steering its pricing mechanism.

The company on Sunday announced a reduction in prices of its Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) by Rs 7 per unit in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts and Dakshina Kannada.

The prices came into effect from Sunday, and they stood at Rs 51.50 per standard cubic metre (SCM) for PNG and Rs 82.50 per kg for CNG.

"The new guidelines aim to establish a stable pricing regime for consumers. The usage of CNG and PNG as a preferred fuel will contribute to reducing the carbon footprint and improve the quality of life", said a press release.

EXPRESS READ

'India to be in top 3 atomic power producers by 2030'

New Delhi: India will achieve 20-gigawatt capacity of nuclear power generation by 2030 which will be a major milestone placing country as the third largest producer of atomic energy in the world after the USA and France, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science &Technology Dr Jitendra Singh. Today, India is the sixth largest country in the world in the number of reactors, he said.

Rinku slams 5 sixes, seals win for KKR

Ahmedabad: Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh slammed five consecutive sixes to pull off a sensational three-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. Needing 29 runs off the last over, Rinku slammed left-arm pacer Yash Dayal for five sixes on the trot to register a last-ball win. **P11**

To beat anti-incumbency, BJP may resort to Gujarat model in state

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

BJP seems to be focusing on giving tickets to newcomers in many constituencies in the May 10 state Assembly elections. Following the Gujarat model, the party may drop at least 25 sitting MLAs, sources said. In Gujarat, ahead of the December 2022 elections, the party had denied tickets to around 40 sitting legislators.

What may be driving the BJP decision in Karnataka is the prediction by various surveys by political parties and non-political organisations that the state could face a fractured mandate. In a last-ditch effort, the party could be drawing up new strategies to cross the magic figure of 113 seats and form the government, and fielding new faces is one of them.

The party held the Central Election Committee meeting in New Delhi over Saturday and Sunday, and it was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party national president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi among others.

The party is likely to announce the list on Monday and already, candidates for 80-85 seats have been finalised, sources within the party said.

"BJP is considering giving tickets to young and new faces in some Assembly constituencies across the state. In Gujarat, the majority of the newcomers fielded in over 40 seats won. It was earlier thought that the Gujarat model may not work in Karnataka. But with various surveys indicating that the party might get less than 100 seats, experts and party seniors are suggesting changes in at least a few constituencies, where anti-incumbency prevails. This is an attempt to retain those seats," said a senior BJP leader, requesting anonymity.

Interestingly, party workers on the ground are excited about new faces being introduced to contest the polls. "We talk of BJP being a cadre-based party. Some of our MLAs, in spite of crossing 70 years and serving as ministers, still want to contest elections. We will be happy if tickets are given to party workers who are working on the ground," said a party worker, who wished not to be named.

Sources in BJP pointed out that when Modi became chief minister of Gujarat he was 50 years old, and when HD Deve Gowda became leader of opposition, he was 39 years old. "There is a need to groom youngsters," sources said.

Pilot revives tussle with Gehlot ahead of Raj polls

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

WITH Rajasthan elections just a few months away, Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Sunday launched a frontal attack against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, accusing him of not pursuing any of the corruption cases against the previous BJP government led by Vasundhara Raje.

In a press conference in Jaipur, Pilot claimed when the Congress was in the opposition, Gehlot had claimed there were scams worth ₹45,000 crore. But, in four years of Congress rule no action had been taken against anyone involved in these scams, he alleged. Pilot also alleged that he had written two letters to the CM but nothing happened, indicating a 'collusion between Raje and Gehlot'. To put pressure on the Gehlot government, Pilot will sit on a one-day fast in Jaipur on April 11.

"Action needs to be taken quickly to prove that there was no collusion, so that Congress workers would feel that there was no difference between the words and actions of their government and leaders. Action should be taken against the allegations of corruption and scams made while in opposition," pilot said.

Sachin Pilot

Ashok Gehlot

This is not the first time that Pilot has taken a critical stance against the Gehlot-led government. In a rally last month, he raised the issue of paper leaks, stating that accountability must be fixed as such incidents have become common.

Additionally, Pilot mentioned that if everyone is given respect, the Congress can win the the 2023 Rajasthan elections.

Kajal Hindustani arrested over her Guj hate-speech

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

RIGHT-WING activist Kajal Hindustani, who was booked over a hate speech she allegedly delivered on Ram Navami, which triggered a communal clash in Gujarat's Una town on April 1, was arrested on Sunday after she surrendered before the police.

As part of the Ram Navami celebrations, a public assembly was organised at Tower Chowk in Una where Kajal spoke. According to the police, communal tensions increased soon after her speech.

The police then set up a meeting of the leaders of the two communities on April 1 in order to defuse the situation.

The meeting, however, took a nasty turn with the leaders confronting each other. Subsequently, mob violence broke out in the town.

A complaint had been filed against her at the Una police station on April 2.

Congress-NCP rift widens over Pawar's comments on Adani group, JPC probe

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Congress on Sunday launched a broadside against NCP supremo Sharad Pawar for defending industrialist Gautam Adani and criticising the Opposition's demand for a JPC probe into allegations against the Adani group.

Sharing the picture of Sharad Pawar and Gautam Adani, Congress spokesperson Alka Lamba tweeted in Hindi: "Scared, greedy people are dancing to the tune of authoritarian government for their own personal benefit. The one and only Rahul Gandhi has been fighting for the people. He is also fighting the capitalists and the corrupt people who are protecting them."

In response, NCP youth wing president Suraj Chavan shared the picture of Adani with Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law Robert Vadra and Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, asking if they were also 'greedy'.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leaders said they have noted the NCP chief's flip-flop and decided to go ahead with their protests against Modi and Adani. "We have decided to prepare the ground for the upcoming elections. We can't fully trust the NCP given their track record. We are ready to go solo or with an alliance," said a leader.

Notably, the BJP jumped to defend Pawar with Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis terming Alka Lamba's tweet and personal remarks against the veteran politician 'appalling'.

FULFILLING FATHER'S WISH

Muslims donate land for temple in riot-hit Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

WITH the wounds of a recent communal flare-up in Bihar's Biharsharif and Sasaram towns still to heal, two Muslim brothers in the state's Kishanganj district have set an example by deciding to ignore the atmosphere of distrust and proceed with fulfilling their father's wish of donating land for the construction of a Hanuman temple.

The land, worth several lakhs of rupees, in Ruidhasa locality in Kishanganj was handed over on the day of Hanuman Jayanti on April 6.

The foundation stone was laid the next day in a ceremony attended by the two brothers – Faiz Ahmad and Fazal Ahmad.

Faiz Ahmed said his father Zulqarnain Ahmad had promised the Hindu families living in their neighborhood to donate land for the construction of a temple. He said his father had told him and his brother about it before he died of Covid-19 in 2020.

"Some Hindus approached us and told us that if we wanted, we can donate the land for the construction of a temple. We decided to donate the land to keep our father's promise," he added. Quoting from the Bhagavad Gita, Faiz said, "You did not bring anything when you were born. Whatever you have, you have received from Him. Whatever you will give, you will give to Him. You came empty handed and you will go the same way."

Two brothers with Hindu leaders after handing over their land

"Whatever is yours today was somebody else's yesterday and will be somebody else's tomorrow," he added.

He said, "We should respect all religions and should live peacefully and should have respect for each other."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 10/04/2023 • **Year:** Shobhakruta • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Chathurthi 8.01 am
• **Nakshatra:** Anuradha 1.08 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 20°C | MAX 34°C — **FORECAST** Sunny

Sunrise 6.10 am | Sunset 6.31 pm | Moonrise 8.28 pm | Moonset 9.06 am

Legendary CITB chief's family loses ₹20 cr property to driver, associate

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

THE descendants of CJ Padmanabha, the legendary City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) chairman after whom Padmanabhnagar is named, are running from pillar to post to get the BBMP to retransfer the khata to them, which had been transferred to the names of two fraudsters.

The CITB is the forerunner of BDA and BBMP. It is a travesty of justice that the descendants of the former chairman are left in the lurch after confidence tricksters played a fraud on his wife.

Padmanabha was the son of Rao Bahadur HC Javaraya, who was the first Indian superintendent of Lalbagh and first Indian director of Karnataka Horticulture who was trained in Kew Gardens in London. The Javaraya Circle is named after this giant.

Well over two decades after Padmanabha's death, their driver, Francis Paunny, sought the help of Kanaka Padmanabha (84) and asked her to attest her signatures. Those signatures turned out to be on the sale deeds and a will. She had unwittingly signed away her entire property in Jayanagar First Block, which is a site measuring 8,100 sqft worth over Rs 20 crore at present market rates, states a police complaint.

Francis and his accomplice Krishna Murugan had already managed to defraud Kanaka, whose father was a wealthy landlord, of an antique diamond necklace, ruby necklace, and 33 pieces of select antique gold and silver valuables and jewellery worth over Rs 1 crore.

This is in addition to several transactions where money was fraudulently transferred from her account to the fraudsters, states the police complaint, which was filed way back in 2012.

Even after the chargesheet was filed, the BBMP, which should not have transferred the khata to fraudsters, did so in spite of court orders and pleas by family members. The entire property khatas in two tranches were transferred to Francis and Krishna, the family alleged.

Harish Padmanabha (76), son of Padmanabha, who is pursuing the battle his mother launched, said, "The pain of being defrauded has been lingering for about a decade. But I have rock solid faith in our judicial system. My only worry is that the next generation too must not suffer the consequences of this fraud."

He said, "The fraudsters who served a small prison term are still at large and have taken loans in the name of our family. We fear that banks may swoop down on us and leave us with more pain."

The project was the only one of BDA's housing project that was stuck in such a fashion

Kanminike Ph-I project set to get going after 7 yrs

It was abandoned by contractor; tenders will be called after lifting of code of conduct

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Development Authority has decided to give new life to its Kanminike Phase-I project, off Mysuru Road, which was abandoned by a contractor seven years ago resulting in huge losses. The latest BDA board meeting has given the green signal for it and tenders will be called immediately after the model code of conduct is lifted.

The Rs 167-crore project was the only one of its housing projects started across the city that got stuck in this fashion. A total of 608 1BHK, 384 2BHK and 320 3BHK flats were supposed to come up here.

A top BDA official said the contractor, Deepak Cables (India), was supposed to complete it by December 2014. He had only completed 7 blocks (40 flats per block) out of 19 blocks, all in the 1BHK category. "Even in these, only the basic structure of the flats was done with no interiors. We had paid him Rs 20 crore for the work done. A 1.5-year extension was given up to April 2016. But he declared insolvency by then and walked away from the project," the official added.

An attempt was made to revive it a year later when Maverick Holdings responded to a fresh tender and came forward to complete it. "However, it was not accepted by the BDA. We had so many flats completed across the city and waiting to be sold. Since Kanminike Phase-2, 3 and 4 too were not getting enough buyers for readied flats, we decided to focus on selling them first," the official added.

BDA has suffered losses running into crores on account of the stalled work. "By now, we should have made good revenue selling all of them and earned property tax too. With many of our flats in other areas sold and the demand still there for our flats, we have now decided to revive this," the official added.

Ugadi discount helping Kanminike Ph-2 sale

To boost sale of flats at Kanminike Phase-2 which were remaining stagnant due to lack of fire department clearance and road connectivity, the BDA built a road from here via Judicial Layout to the main road.

"We also announced a 10 per cent discount during Ugadi for 2 BHK and 5 per cent for 3 BHK to spur sales and that has helped. We have sold 200 2 BHK flats so far in Phase-2 of Kanminike and aim to sell 700 more. The 3-month discount period has translated into many showing interest. Out of 108 3 BHK flats, 40 have been sold," he said. The discounted price of 3 BHK is Rs 38 lakh and that of 2 BHK is Rs 27 lakh and Rs 22.5 lakh, depending on the type of the flat chosen. Another road leading to the main road is also in the pipeline.

No EWS flats built in two projects: BDA

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING an explanation sought by the Lokayukta on whether the earmarking of houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) was done in two prominent housing projects as promised, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has informed it that they had not been complied with. However, unlike the BBMP which has in the past withdrawn the Occupancy Certificate issued in such cases, the BDA will not do so.

"This is because of a High Court ruling earlier this year that private builders need not mandatorily make an allocation for EWS," a top BDA official told TNIE. The BDA had inspected both the projects and furnished its explanation to the Lokayukta on March 27.

The issue boils down to a notification issued by the state government on January 30, 2015, amending the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, mandating reservation of a minimum of 15 per cent of the gross floor ratio in projects with a gross floor area above 1,000 sqmt for building houses for the EWS and Lower Income Group (LIG) category.

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, a social activist, who purchased houses in both these projects, sent repeated mails to the BDA Commissioner that the EWS specification had not been honoured by the builders. Due to the lack of response, he lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta on February 22, 2023.

A top BDA official said the Confederation of Real Estate Development Authority of India (CREDAI) had taken up the cudgel on behalf of the builders and challenged the order. "The High Court delivered a verdict in favour of CREDAI and its order on March 6, 2023, and said the reservation of a portion of land for EWS and LIG cannot be mandated in the case of private builders. Hence, we will not be taking any action against the builders for not providing houses for these categories," he explained.

HIgher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan interacts with residents of Malleshwaram on Sunday

ASHWATH NARAYAN MEETS RESIDENTS, SEEKS VOTE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HIGHER Education Minister and Malleshwaram MLA Dr C N Ashwath Narayan interacted with residents of Salarpuria, Embassy, Brigade Regency and Sasikiran apartments on Sunday.

Narayan said civic amenities like water supply, healthcare and other facilities have been delivered on priority to the Malleshwaram constituency and asked people to vote for the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections.

"To help ensure that the poor get quality education, all the government educational institutions in Malleshwaram has been developed. Around 10,000 students are studying in government schools and colleges," he said. He said water leakage has been reduced from 45 per cent to 14.72 per cent in the Malleshwaram area and added this has helped them supply water to the apartments. Narayan said a water museum has been set up at 18th Cross Malleshwaram to create public awareness about water shortage and how to use it efficiently. He explained to the apartment dwellers the slew of developments that has been done related to the health sector and said the constituency has 6 Namma Clinics.

On waste management, Narayan said an appropriate policy is being formulated to take apartment residents into confidence in proper waste management.

FIRST FOR B'LURU

New attraction coming up at Nandi Halt stn: Rail museum

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

SPREAD across 7 acres inside the premises of the 107-year-old Nandi Halt railway station in Yaluvahalli, construction of the first Rail Museum-cum-Rail Park for the Bengaluru Railway Division has begun. It is expected to be a major tourist attraction here, set to be intertwined with tradition and modernity, along with Nandi Hills, around 20 kms from here, and the recently unveiled Adi Yogi Shiva statue.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Administration, Bengaluru Railway Division, Kusuma Hariprasad told TNIE, "The first phase is being readied at a cost of Rs 2.38 crore. Work has already begun and is expected to open to public by the year-end. The General Manager of South Western Railway Zone has agreed to release an Out of Turn (OT) payment of the same. While Mysuru and Hubballi have their own rail museums, it will be the first such one for Bengaluru."

The Nandi Halt railway station in Yaluvahalli where construction work on the rail museum is going on in full swing on the premises | EXPRESS

City-based Bindu Agency has bagged the contract for the museum. A mini restaurant created from old coaches, a Toy train like the one at Cubbon Park, a 3D art gallery, and QR enabled picture postcards will be among the key attractions here. They are set to be juxtaposed with ancient benches, rails, coaches and colonial era furniture collected from different stations.

A unique aspect of the venture is that the Division will be reviving the dry Dakshina Pinakini river, which originate at Nandi Hills and flows via Chikkaballapur and Hoskote, the ADRM said.

"We originally wanted to have it inside KSR railway station. But the limited land availability and huge cost involved made us choose the Nandi Halt station campus which has 15 acres of land, of which, only half the space is required for the museum," she said.

Materials viewed as scrap hold great historical significance for the Railways, Hariprasad added. "Signalling systems and other old material have been collected along with an ancient dressing table and dining table from Channapatnra, Maddur and Hejjala among other stations.

EXPRESS READ

Summer camp at Bannerghatta park

Bannerghatta Biological Park will organise a summer camp for children aged between 10 and 18 years from 9.30 am to 5 pm on April 12-14 and April 19-21. A maximum of 50 students per batch will be taken. Children will get to learn various aspects of zoo management, animal behaviour, animal keeping, zoo management and wildlife conservation. Interested students can log onto the park website bannerghatta-biologicalpark.org for details. Zoo officials said registration emails should be sent at least three days before the selected date. **ENS**

Leadership camp for EWS students

The Lal Bahadur Mountaineering Institute is organising a personality and leadership development camp in Doddaballapura for students from economically backward sections from April 12 to 17. The camp will include training in first aid, environment education, painting, camping, etc besides classes on personality development. Those interested may contact BR Ramachandra Rao Kale at 93418 22000.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

10th April: Today I focus on Aquarius, a sign of infinite possibilities. If Aquarius has a god, then it is Reason, with a capital 'R'! People who are born when this sign is strong, flourish when they listen to the facts, follow the evidence and steer clear of superstition. All of us should observe these virtues today, if we are to harmonise with the current cosmic energies.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
As the Moon sweeps through the most personal reaches of your solar chart you would be well advised to pay urgent attention to matters close to home. Working Ariens will be encouraged to get as far ahead as they can, and not to let random emotions interfere with the working day.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If there is to be a theme for the week, it should be that arguments can be positive - and that it's good to clear the air. The favou-rable way to harmonise your life with today's stars is to set out to take decisions and open new lines of communication.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're still receiving a valuable shot of energy from Mars' relationship with your sign but, in general, the situation is looking rather less organised. So, if you do have practical tasks to complete, you must be sure to step up your level of concentration.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon's friendly presence is a definite plus, but the fact that it's your personal ruler is an additional sign that you can afford to raise your sights. If you're making plans for tomorrow, though, understand that circumstances may have changed before twenty-four hours have passed - and that there might be extra costs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You're about to face some hard decisions, not all of which will be of your own making. Today you can spend as much time as you wish day-dreaming, for your fantasies will point the way to the truth. Mind you, if you want respect, then you'll have to earn it.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is a special time of year, and you should move forward with confidence and faith in your future. Set yourself up for a positive time by seeking allies at work and planning social initiatives at home. Just one word of caution though - secret feelings could be about to become public.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's time to indulge your ambitions and accept responsibility over others. This is something you often tend to avoid, in spite of the fact that, as current developments should demonstrate, you are able to handle your duties with unique skill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Pay attention to the legal situation and make sure that you are well aware of your rights. It's a positive moment for travel, although any delays could be caused by family members or home commitments. Take simple precautions now and you'll thank yourself in future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The strongest emerging theme in your solar chart is a desire for prestige and status, and this will obviously help those of you planning professional promotion. Your daily planetary patterns, though, focus on your need to sort out joint financial affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You must pay extra attention to family members' needs today, for if they are not satisfied they have ways, even unintentionally, of sabotaging your hopes in return. Scratch their backs and they'll scratch yours. That's the way the world works!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Stay busy and realise that a day spent coping with routine chores need not be dull. Also, check up on your physical situation and take steps to get in shape, cleaning up your diet and exercise. After all, your body is a shrine, as the mystics always tell us.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It's a fair day for taking some time off and indulging in a private affair or devoting a little time to an artistic activity. If unavoidable commitments beckon, try to make them as personally enjoyable as possible. There's no point in suffering when you don't have to!

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

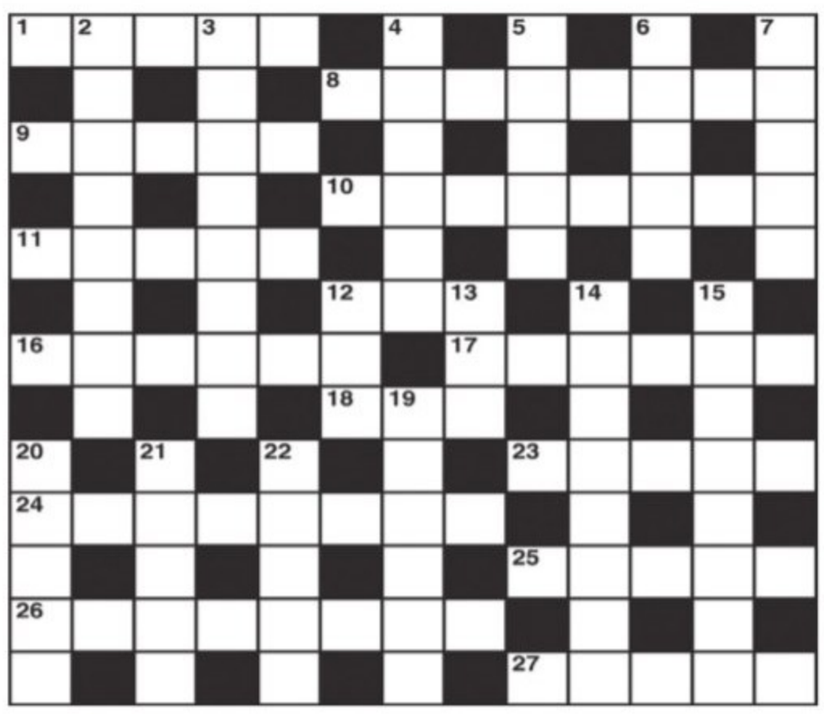
5					1	6		
				5			9	2
			8			5		1
	5	7	2					
	1						2	
					6	8	5	
9		6			3			
3	8			1				
		2	5					4

3	4	6	5	1	2	8	7	9
9	5	8	6	7	3	4	2	1
1	2	7	4	9	8	3	6	5
4	9	3	8	6	5	2	1	7
2	6	5	1	4	7	9	8	3
8	7	1	3	2	9	6	5	4
5	3	4	7	8	6	1	9	2
6	1	9	2	5	4	7	3	8
7	8	2	9	3	1	5	4	6

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Long piece of peel? (5)
8 Song composed about the present time (8)
9 Nerve - but not of steel (5)
10 Cheap items don't allow profits (8)
11 Nautical hazards mean one takes in sail (5)
12 Transport used by a wise man - or a fool (3)
16 Expresses requirements for a choir (6)
17 Catch the eye perhaps with a nationwide broadcast? (4-2)
18 Curious thing to do (3)
23 I'm taking some time to get the picture (5)
24 Fall that impairs vision (8)
25 Clear the area (5)
26 Kind expression is important to the press (8)
27 Sounds as if false notes may come from them (5)

DOWN
2 Attacked and made to run? (6,2)
3 One fast turn over another? True! (3,1,4)
4 Cycles along quiet winding dales (6)
5 Sound of a hinge breaking? (5)
6 Clothing that's a little on the hot side (5)
7 Five Gaelic lines of poetry (5)
12 Clasped at the heart - by Cleopatra? (3)
13 Start in the stable (3)
14 Standards followed by a helper as a rule (8)
15 Sticky spot for a general manager in paper combine (8)
19 Gold backing used by firms for decoration (6)
20 An attractive kind of accent (5)
21 Do they punctuate the bus route? (5)
22 Tendency of old penny to chink (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Close match, 6 Isis, 10 Inner, 11 Cockroach, 12 Carefree, 13 Salvo, 15 Elapses, 17 Spliced, 19 Bolting, 21 Respray, 22 Label, 24 Admonish, 27 Soft pedal, 28 Throw, 29 Sash, 30 Lead the way.

Down: 1 Coin, 2 Of no avail, 3 Eerie, 4 Accords, 5 Cachets, 7 Stall, 8 Schooldays, 9 Wrestles, 14 Herbalists, 16 Ski slope, 18 Corkscrew, 20 Grandee, 21 Rumpled, 23 Buffs, 25 Notch, 26 Sway.

JUMBLE — UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

GEVUA

MICBL

GITMAS

SIFEUN

Let's try again. Count all your fingers.
Don't worry. Once you get it, it will be easy from then on.
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9 and... I forget.
REMEMBERING THE FIRST POSITIVE TWO-DIGIT NUMBER WOULD SOON BE ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CRANK FLING POLLEN SCAMPI
Answer: When the dogs started playfully "kissing" her face, they were — FROLICKING

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A team from AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi's office visited Kolar to oversee preparations for former AICC president Rahul Gandhi's Jai Bharat rally scheduled to be held on April 16

CITY SEES DIP IN ILI, SARI CASES, RISE IN GASTRO INFECTIONS

Summer heat causes food to get contaminated and spoil faster

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

Though Covid numbers have seen an upward tick lately, the number of Influenza-Like Infections (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI), especially Adenovirus, H3N2 and H1N1 (swine flu) cases have been going down by almost 50 per cent.

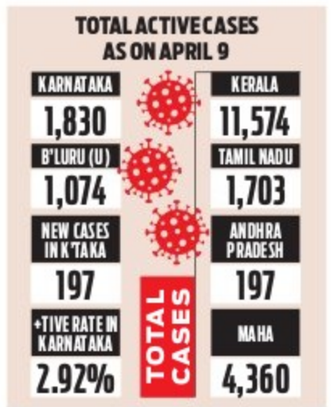
Summer has set in, and the number of ILI/SARI cases in Bengaluru is dropping compared to the previous two months. The changing weather has also brought in an upward trend in gastrointestinal-related infections, doctors added.

Dr Rajath Athreja, senior consultant and head of department (paediatrics and neonatology), Sakra World Hospital, said, "The rise is Covid cases is not significant, and those needing hospitalisation is also very low. As expected, the number of ILI/SARI cases has also come down by 50 per cent." Until March, there were around 30 outpatients daily, but now that number has also come down, he said.

On stomach-related infections, the doctor said summer season causes food to get contaminated and spoil faster. They have seen approximately 10 cases of vomiting, loose motions and stomach ache daily over the past few days.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members have also ascertained that the spike in Covid cases seen lately is not likely to continue in the upcoming months and will not affect voter turnout in election-bound Karnataka.

TAC members said one of the reasons for the spike in Covid cases has been people's negligence in following Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB). Keeping the current situation in mind, there is no need to enforce any new guidelines, and citizens must ensure they follow CAB and get tested, if symptomatic. Hospitalisation and Covid deaths seen so far have also been incidental, as the infected people suffered from comorbidities, which led to their death.



Covid cases rise, no cause for worry: Docs

ENS @ Bengaluru:

AS SARS-CoV-2 active cases in neighbouring Kerala touches 11,000-plus on April 9, experts and officials in Karnataka have reassured the people that the Covid spike witnessed across India is no cause for worry.

Doctors said the total active cases in the state have increased slightly, but cases needing hospitalisation have not increased at the same pace. Testing for symptomatic patients also increased, with 9,000 tests being conducted on a daily average.

Dr MK Sudarshan, chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee, said people not following Covid Appropriate Behaviour has been a major reason for the rise in cases. However, he said the upward trend that is seen will not continue for long. Even deaths due to ILI and SARI, especially the Adenovirus, H3N2, H1N1 cases which were rising till March, were incidental as infected people suffered with comorbidities, which led to their death.

Amid KMF-Amul row, hotels rally behind Nandini

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of the political slugfest on Amul foraying into Karnataka, hotel owners in Bengaluru have taken a stand to support the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and its milk products. The Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association, which represents around 24,000 small and big hotels in the city and consumes more than 4 lakh litres of milk and 50,000 litres of curd every day, is among the bulk consumers of KMF's Nandini products. Along with milk and curd, they also consume ghee, butter, kova, paneer and cheese in bulk. The association says it is their social responsibility in protecting the farmers, especially women who supply milk to the KMF.

Speaking to TNIE, P C Rao, association president, noted that hotels in Bengaluru alone buy more than 4 lakh litres of milk from KMF every day. "Apart from milk, we also buy more than 50,000 litres of curd. We regularly use Nandini ghee, kova, paneer and cheese also. We are proud of KMF and the women farmers who are supplying milk. We have insisted that all the hotels use only Nandini milk only," he said.

"We are not against Amul and we are not getting into political opinions. Amul is also an Indian product and their butter is so good that some hotels are using them. However, our intention is that we support Nandini's products, especially milk and help our farmers," Rao said added that KMF is running on a 'hand to mouth' basis, which is not the case with Amul.

He added that Amul can go on aggressive marketing and offer freebies, which KMF cannot afford to do and said that is where our social responsibility comes into the picture to lend our support to KMF. They have also sent a communication to their members to use only Nandini milk and curd. "We will also keep a watch on the progress of Amul's foray and if the need arises all the hoteliers will write to Amul to save Nandini milk products, Rao said.

FESTIVE DELIGHTS

Children grab their favourite chocolates at St Andrew's Church on Easter Sunday in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Decomposed body of murdered woman found

ENS @Bengaluru

Ambika (35), a native of Raichur, was found murdered at her house in TC Palya in KR Puram.The deceased, who worked as a construction worker, moved to the city several years ago and was living alone in the house while her two children stayed in a hostel.

On Sunday, the neighbours sensed a foul smell coming from her house and alerted the police who broke in to find the partially decomposed.

"The assailants had locked the door from outside after committing the murder. It appears that the murder took place 2-3 days ago and multiple stab injuries were detected. Prima facie, someone known to the victim is behind the murder. The reason for the murder will be ascertained only after the accused is arrested," the police said.

THREE YOUTH ARRESTED FOR MURDERING 15-YEAR-OLD BOY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

The KG Halli police arrested three youths, Suhail Ullah Sharief (19), Syed Shoaib (20) and Mohammed Hussain (18), residents of KG Halli, in connection with the murder of Satish M(15), whose body was found on the morning of April 3 near the railway track in Pillanna Garden.

Initially, though there were no leads about the assailants, the investigating teams verified the footage recorded by 60-70 CCTV cameras for 3-4 days to gather clues, said the police.

"Based on the clues, the police zeroed in on the accused and arrested the trio. Investigations revealed that the deceased Satish worked as a horse caretaker on Mosque Road and provided horse rides for children. About two weeks before the murder, accused Sharief had asked Satish if he could sit on the horse to click a picture, who on denying the request, was slapped. The following week, Satish was sitting with his friends at a tea stall in Lingarajapuram, where Sharief also happened to go, and Satish picked a fight and returned the slap," the police said.

On April 2nd, Sharief, who was in Pillanna Garden with his friends, spotted Satish in the evening and took the latter near the railway track in the pretext of talking to him. "The accused assaulted the boy with sticks near the railway track and murdered him before escaping," the police added.

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The Kuppanda (Kaikeri) family team won the Appachettolanda Cup at the Kodava hockey festival at Napoklu in Kodagu on Sunday. They defeated the Kulletira family team (4-2) in a nail-biting tie-breaker. The match went into a tie-breaker after it ended in a 1-1 draw at full time

Not just tigers, address concerns of Kannadigas too, Tharoor tells Modi

'People tired of 40% commission, want 100% commitment of Cong'

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

TAKING a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress MP and former Union minister Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said that the former, who went on a safari in Bandipur, should also address the concerns of the people of Karnataka as they are fed up with the misrule of the BJP government in the state.

He, however, clarified that he will not criticise Modi's visit to Bandipur and the government's wildlife conservation initiatives. Tharoor said that the present Union Government is continuing with the schemes introduced by the previous governments for wildlife conservation.

"I am glad that he (Modi) is preserving tigers... but we also want him to take steps for the wellbeing of Kannadigas. We all know that the Save Tiger project was initiated by the late PM Indira Gandhi. I don't want to indulge in politics over animals," the Thiruvananthapuram MP, who was in the city for a two-day interaction with first-time voters and teachers, told reporters.

He also slammed the Basavaraj Bommai-led government saying that the people were tired of "40% commission" and wanted "100% commitment" that the Congress would give if voted to power.

A host of leaders from other parties are joining the Congress ahead of the polls, he said, adding that it does show that people from other parties are seeing the Congress as an inevitable victorious party in the state. "Modi and Shah are not going to come here to govern. The government in Karnataka for the last four years will be held accountable as there are genuine concerns about price rise, lack of support for unemployed graduates and housewives. These are the main issues that will be raised... not even the issue of Hindutva... we focus on the future and not the past," the MP added.

He said that the BJP saying Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is no match to Modi will not also be an issue as Karnataka needs a better CM and better governance. "Rahul's disqualification issue is alive. But we are going to raise state issues first... also, some national issues are bound to come up because Karnataka is a politically-aware state, especially the urban areas. There is a lot of consciousness and national issues... whether it is the issue of crony capitalism, national security, including what the Chinese are doing in our borders, as few soldiers even from Karnataka are serving in dangerous conditions," he added.

Tharoor said the Congress will improve the infrastructure of Bengaluru, which used to be the pride of Karnataka and India but which is now becoming an embarrassment.

"Whether it is state-level governance or urban governance, there are serious deficiencies that the Congress government will tackle," Tharoor added.

On the ongoing Karnataka Milk Federation-Amul controversy, the MP said that Brand Nandini should be protected and exported to more states. "... but getting too protectionist about it may not help the national economy," he elaborated.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor prays to a cylinder mocking the soaring prices of LPG, at the KPCC office in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'It is natural for state leaders to have CM dream'

ENS @ Bengaluru

MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday felt that it is normal for state Congress president DK Shivakumar and CLP leader Siddaramaiah to have chief ministerial ambitions. He also indirectly ruled out the possibility of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge becoming the Karnataka chief minister as the latter has been in national politics and is at the helm of affairs in the Grand Old Party. "Kharge is a very respected party president ... We are all giving him our full support. The Congress has a tradition of not discussing its CM candidate before the elections... it is a healthy practice," he told reporters here.

He said the Congress wants its leader to focus on winning the election first. "And once the elections are won, I am sure that we can have more time to discuss various options. Both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah have clearly said that they are united. The truth is that. It is normal in any kind of party politics for individuals to have exceptional personal qualities, professional abilities, and political aspirations," he added.

"At the end of the day, whenever Congress has won the election and formed a government, one person will become the CM and others move on," he added.

Tharoor criticised the BJP's Christian outreach in states like Kerala. He said that the saffron party might try similar things in Karnataka.

BJP to fight on development agenda, apart from Hindutva

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

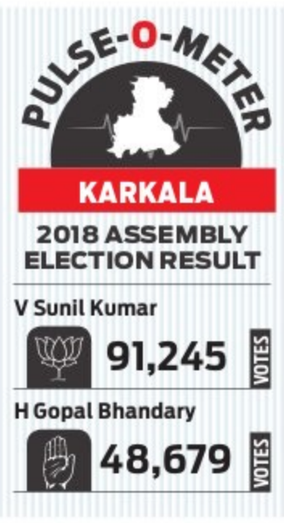
FROM 1972 to 1994, the Karkala Assembly constituency elected tall Congress leader and former chief minister M Veerappa Moily consecutively. The wave for Congress continued in 1999 even when Moily's confidant, late H Gopal Bhandary, contested on the party ticket. But in 2004, the present Energy Minister, V Sunil Kumar, who was a Bajrang Dal leader, stopped the Congress juggernaut and won by a margin of 9,795 votes.

But Moily's fame and Bhandary's well-crafted politics got him one last victory in 2008 and he won by a wafer-thin margin of 1,537 votes. Sunil Kumar was back in 2013 and again in 2018 as he defeated Bhandary by riding the Hindutva wave.

Moily, the first ethnic Tuluva chief minister of the state, began his career as a lawyer in Karkala in 1969 and earned excellent goodwill by helping landless farmers understand their rights. That was what helped him win the elections repeatedly.

Of over 1,88,000 voters in the constituency, the majority are Billavas with about 50,000 votes, followed by Bunts (40,000), Christians and Muslims, each with around 18,000 votes. The remaining are Gouda Saraswatha Brahmins, Rajapura Saraswatha Brahmins and Vishwakarmas among others.

The Hindutva factor has been playing out quite strongly here for the last two decades, consolidating Hindu voters and helping BJP. This time, however, the party wants to focus on development too, apart from Hindutva.



Sunil Kumar is highly likely to be the BJP candidate again, as he does not seem to face any sentiment of anti-incumbency from the voters. For him, the biggest challenge is not from Congress, but from Sri Rama Sene chief Pramod Muthalik, who has accused Sunil of deviating from the core Hidutva ideology. The two shades of Hindutva playing out here has made the contest interesting.

Congress is yet to declare its candidate, but names of contractors, Muniyal Uday Kumar Shetty and DR Raju, and loyal partyman Manjunath Poojary are doing the rounds. The feeling on the ground is that if Congress gives the ticket to Uday Kumar Shetty, the fight will be intense as Bunts may support him. The other aspirant, Manjunath Poojary, who is being supported by Moily, is favoured only in Hebri and surrounding areas as he was a zilla panchayat member.

Political observers said that BJP is focusing on the development agenda as the constituency has more educated voters now. Earlier this year, the MSME department of the central government sanctioned Rs 5 crore to start a Jackfruit Processing Cluster at Nitte, Karkala. It provides direct employment to around 1,000 local women and may enhance the income of 5,000 farmers in the region. The other project is the Parashurama Theme Park, developed on top of Umikkal Hill at Bailoor, Karkala at a cost of Rs 10 crore, which has become a major tourist attraction now.

The Yennehole Lift Irrigation project of the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd will irrigate around 1,500 hectares of land and recharge groundwater in and around nine villages of Karkala taluk. This project, being executed at a cost of Rs 108 crore, aims to supply water to recharge two lakes in the taluk.

All these projects may figure in the BJP campaign, while Congress is planning to target Sunil Kumar on corruption charges. Muthalik too is going hammer and tongs at Kumar on the graft issue.

Police get custody of Kerehalli for seven days

ENS @ Bengaluru

RIGHT-wing activist Punith Kerehalli and four others, who have been arrested on charges of lynching the driver of a cattle transport vehicle, have been remanded in police custody for seven days. Kerehalli and the other accused, who were arrested by the Ramanagara police in Rajasthan, were brought to Kanakapura on Sunday and were produced before a magistrate. As the police informed the magistrate that they need the custody of the accused for questioning in connection with the case, the magistrate remanded the accused in police custody for seven days.

On March 31 night, the accused had waylaid a truck carrying cattle near Santhemala near Sathanur police station in Kanakapura. The next morning, the body of Idrees Pasha, the driver of the truck, was found a few hundred metres away from the police station. It was alleged that Kerehalli and his associates had lynched Pasha.

'All 17 MLAs who joined BJP will get tickets'

ENS @ Belagavi

FORMER minister and Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi asserted here on Sunday that all 17 MLAs, including Mahesh Kumatalli from Athani, Shrimant Patil from Kagwad, and other MLAs who joined BJP with him in 2019, would get the party ticket.

"It is difficult to reveal some information. I am confident that Mahesh Kumatalli will get a ticket," he told the media at Shinnoli village, on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border. Jarkiholi held a meeting of his followers at a factory building in Shinnoli village, as the model code of conduct is effective in the state.

Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah pays tribute to Sir M Visvesvaraya at a function in Bengaluru on Sunday

Oppressed classes had it better during Cong govt: Siddaramaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that oppressed classes in the state had it better during the Congress government than during the BJP dispensation as the Grand Old Party cares for these sections.

To prove his point, he said, "When we presented our last budget of Rs 2.02 lakh crore, the allocation for SC, ST and oppressed sections was Rs 30,000 crore. Now when the budget size has increased by 50 percent and is about Rs 3.10 lakh crore, why is the allocation for the oppressed sections, like SCs, Rs 30,000 crore? Is this fair?" He said, "The reservation for the Scheduled Castes has been increased by the BJP government, but it has not been validated yet. Under BJP, assurances have remained just that." He said, "The Dalit Sangharsha Samithi had demanded that 7D of the SC/P/TSP Act be removed. Dalit leaders in BJP have tolerated the Act and are lying to the people saying that money for SC/STs has been spent on irrigation." He said, "If we gave 10 kg of rice, BJP reduced it to 7 kg. It would have cost the government just Rs 3,000 crore more. The price of LPG was Rs 414 in 2013, but it is Rs 1,150 today. We have promised Rs 2,000 per month to women heads of each house to handle such expenses, but BJP is spreading misinformation that it cannot be done. But we can do this by reducing borrowing, cutting unnecessary expenditure and collecting taxes properly. Every year, the budget size is increasing by Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 crore and welfare programmes for the people can be implemented."

> **The reservation for the Scheduled Castes has been increased by the BJP government, but it has not been validated yet. Under BJP, assurances have remained just that**
>
> Siddaramaiah, Congress Legislature Party leader

He warned that BJP was ideologically the offshoot of RSS and Hindu Mahasabha, whose stand on these issues are well known.

Cong reaches out to SCs, appoints Chandrappa KPCC working president

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

IN a 'better late than never' decision, the Congress, in back-to-back appointments to its organisational setup, appointed two SC (Left) members to placate the community, which was by and large leaning towards the ruling BJP government.

Former Chitradurga LS member B N Chandrappa was appointed KPCC working president, a day after the Grand Old Party (GOP) appointed another community member, HP Sudham Das, a former Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer from Kanakapura, as co-chairperson of the campaign committee, in the run-up to the May 10 assembly polls.

Both the appointments were apparently made to placate the community, which was sidelined in the party's organisation for decades, and also because Chandrappa was denied a ticket to contest the assembly polls. The BJP's last cabinet meeting, led by CM Basavaraj Bommai, had decided to categorise SC quota, and allocated 6 per cent to the community. It was widely welcomed by the community as its struggle for internal quota within SC category got a breakthrough.

The decision to appoint Chandrappa with 'immediate effect', following AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge's instruction, came after the demise of KPCC working president R Dhruvanarayana.

Chandrappa (68) was Chitradurga Lok Sabha MP (2014-2019) and member of the parliamentary standing committee on chemicals and fertilisers, and the agriculture consultative committee. Originally from Chikkamagaluru district, he was elected Zilla Parishad member (1986-91) and went on to become vice-president (1991-1992) with state minister's rank. Chandrappa also served as Lidkar chairman from 2001-03 in the SM Krishna regime.

Lidkar, now Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd., was established for the development of the leather industry in Karnataka, and to implement welfare schemes for Dalits, especially cobblers.

Former MLA YSV Datta at a meeting with his followers in Kadur on Sunday

After Congress ticket snub, Datta to fight as independent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

FORMER legislator YSV Datta on Sunday said that he will contest the May 10 Assembly elections as an independent candidate from Kadur constituency.

This comes in the wake of Datta not being given a ticket by the Congress. Datta had recently quit the JDS and joined the Congress. Datta had lost the 2018 polls on a JDS ticket from Kadur.

After the Congress denied him ticket in its second list and fielded KS Anand from Kadur, the former MLA convened a 'Swabhimani' meeting on Sunday which was attended by a large number of his supporters.

On Thursday, a large number of Datta's supporters thronged his residence at Yagati and urged him to contest the election as an Independent or asn an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate. Datta had told them that he would decide his future course of action at the Swabhimani meet in Kadur on Sunday.

Thousands of his supporters descended on NH 206 in Kadur town on Sunday and took out a procession. Datta demonstrated a power of strength by taking out a mega road show in which over 6,000 of his supporters took part. He offered puja at the Venkateshwara Swamy Temple and proceeded to the Venkateshwara Kalyana Mantapa, where the meeting was held. The venue was fully-packed with thousands of his supporters and LED screens were installed outside as the numbers swelled.

Datta spread out a towel and urged those present at the meeting to contribute towards his election expenses.

POLITICAL THEATRE

CONTROL ROOM SET UP IN BYATARAYANAPURA

BENGALURU: Ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections, a control room has been set up at the BBMP Byatarayanapura office on Amrutahalli Main Road. People has been requested to get information related to the voters' list and lodge complaints on the model code of conduct violation (MCC) at the control room. Vijay Kumar H B has been appointed electoral officer for Byatarayanpura Assembly constituency and Sathish Kumar as nodal officer of MCC. The public can contact them directly at the control room or call them on 08022 975936 to submit any complaints. **ENS**

AMUL POSES NO THREAT TO KMF, SAYS MINISTER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Udupi

STATE Backward Classes and Social Welfare Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary hit out at the Congress for its campaign that there is a threat to Karnataka Milk Federation's Nandini brand following Amuls' entry to the state. Poojary said that there is a need for 1 crore litre of milk each day in Karnataka, while supply is just 74 lakh litres. To catch up with the demand, other milk brands have also entered the market in the past in Karnataka.

"The Congress is unnecessarily creating confusion to gain political mileage. Nandini will continue to be a prominent brand across the country. A discussion is being held on the introduction of Amul in Karnataka and the possible threat to Nandini. In reality, Nandini brand has a wide market network from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari. We have 14 KMF organisations with nearly 60,000 milk procuring centres in the state," he elaborated. "Some people get annoyed when they hear the name Gujarat. It is a fact that Gujarat is developing as a model state. We are proud that Gujarat is part of our nation," he said.

With around 318 per cent rise in annual income in 2021-22, the BJD became the second wealthiest regional party in the country after the DMK, according to the latest report of the Association for Democratic Reforms

● Modi interacts with camp staffers for 15 mins, who explained the nature of their duty and challenges ● Experts and forest dept officials question the release of partial estimates and methodology adopted ● Karnataka has two points to cheer about ● Final report will be released on July 29

HOME TO BIGGEST POPULATION, KARNATAKA COULD BE 'TIGER STATE'

B K LAKSHMIKANTHA @Mysuru

PM Narendra Modi, who launched a three-day mega event to mark 50 years of Project Tiger, is likely to declare Karnataka the 'Tiger State of India'. As per a recent assessment by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India, it is expected that Karnataka has overtaken Madhya Pradesh in tiger population.

As per the 2018 tiger estimation, Karnataka came second with 524 tigers, while Madhya Pradesh with 526 tigers took first place. The country has 2,967 tigers, and efforts of forest officials in protecting wildlife and forests is expected to have increased the tiger population in the state and country.

The rapid increase in human population over the centuries led to a decline in wildlife in the country. There was large-scale hunting of wildlife, especially tigers, for pleasure during the period of the Mughals, Maharajas and Nawabs, as well as to save people from attacks of wild animals. During British rule between 1895 and 1925, it is reported that over 80,000 tigers, more than 1.50 lakh leopards and 2 lakh wolves were hunted in the country.

According to the Kanara District Gazetteer 1883, the British government gave incentives for killing tigers -- Rs 24 for hunting an adult tiger, Rs 12 for a sub-adult tiger and Rs 6 for a tiger cub. As a result, in the 27 years between 1856 and 1882, 640 tigers were shot dead in Kanara, 158 tigers from 1856 to 1866, 350 tigers between 1867 and 1877, and 130 tigers between 1878 and 1882.

As per the 1954-55 Administrative Report of the forest department of Government of Mysore, Kakanakote State Forest, Begur State Forest, Berambadi State Forest, Bandipur State Forest and Chamarajanagar State Forest in Mysore District, Lakkavalli State Forest in Chikkamagaluru District, Shankar State Forest in Shivamogga district and Hessaraghatta Grass Farm in Bengaluru district were declared game preserves, and Puduvakote Forest Block, Manche Gowdanahalli forest block and Bale Gowdananakatte forest block in Mysuru District, Gurupura forest block in Chikkamagaluru, Kadathikere and Devabu blocks in Shivamogga district were declared tiger preserves.

The first comprehensive legislation regarding wildlife protection was passed by Parliament and the President on September 9, 1972, called Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Then PM Indira Gandhi launched Project Tiger, providing assistance to states for tiger conservation.

However, before the WPL 1992, a number of wildlife sanctuaries -- Venugopala Wildlife Park (1931), Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary (1940), Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary (1941) and Jagger Valley Wildlife Park (1951) in Mysore state, Nagarahole Wildlife Sanctuary (1955) in Coorg state and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (1956) in Bombay Presidency -- established by princely states were merged into Karnataka in 1956.

As per the Karnataka State Gazetteer, 1982, when Project Tiger was launched, Bandipur National Park was brought under it in 1973. Nagarahole National Park and Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary were made tiger reserves in 1999. However, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park were brought under Project Tiger in 2007 under the name Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve.

It was later renamed Kali Tiger Reserve. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a tiger reserve in 2011. The forest department has sent a proposal to the central government to include Kudremukh National Park, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Belagavi district in Project Tiger. Bhimgad Sanctuary is a critically important tiger corridor between Karnataka and Goa.

ACCURATE NUMBERS

Former Mysuru honorary wildlife warden and Wildlife Conservation Foundation founder Rajkumar Devaraje Urs told TNIE that as tiger estimation was done based on pug marks in the past, there was no accuracy in counting tigers. "After camera traps were introduced, foresters achieved accuracy. The major threat to tigers is forest fires and poaching. If reserve foresters and island pockets are included in the tiger reserve, India has a chance to have a tiger population of 10,000 in future. If there is a good tiger population, forests will be healthy which increases rain, resulting in increase in ground water table and rivers.

90%

of rivers originate in tiger reserves

TIGER COUNT

STATE	2006	2010	2014	2018
MADHYA PRADESH	300	257	308	526
KARNATAKA	290	300	406	524

As I conclude a memorable visit to the Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves, I want to acknowledge the hard work of all forest officials, guards, tiger reserve frontline staff and everyone else working on tiger conservation. Words can't do justice to their passion and effort. What a delight to meet the wonderful Bomman and Belli, along with Bommi and Raghu.

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PM Narendra Modi interacts with Oscar star Bellie at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu on Sunday; PM tries to shoot a part of Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Photos & safari for Modi, but no felines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

NARENDRA Modi became the first PM to visit Bandipur Tiger Reserve, one of the best-known wildlife reserves, in Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar district on Sunday.

Wearing a camouflage t-shirt, combined with a khaki trouser, a black hat and a jacket presented by the state forest department, Modi landed at the temporary helipad near Bandipur Tiger Reserve entrance gate at Mel Kammanahalli. Foresters accompanied him as he travelled to the reception centre inside the forest area by road.

After paying his respects at the forester martyrs memorial near the reception centre, Modi refreshed himself with a cup of tea, and spent around 10 minutes at the memorial.

Then he embarked on the wildlife safari in a 10-seater open roof jeep followed by seven other vehicles carrying Chamarajanagar DC DS Ramesh, SP Padmini Sahu, foresters, and security men into the forest.

No tigers, leopards around

Modi would be dejected as he could not sight tigers or leopards but saw elephants, Indian Gaurs, deers, Bengal Monitor Lizards during his two-hour tour traversing 22 km.

The route was planned keeping in mind that wild animals frequent water bodies during summer.

Foresters told TNIE that at Bolgudda view point, which is around 1.5 km from the reception centre, Modi clicked a few pictures and also soaked in the spectacular sight of the green hills through a binoculars. He later visited the Maralahalli anti-poaching camp and interacted with forest staffers.

"The camp staff explained their nature of duty and the challenges they face. The interaction lasted for about 15 minutes before the PM left for Kekkanahalla check-post on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border area," he said.

Felicitation cancelled

At Kekkanahalla check-post, foresters had arranged a felicitation programme, and as per plan, Modi was supposed to felicitate Gundlupet ACF Ravindra, STPF staff, officer and staff of the Omkar forest range for saving the life of a 30-year-old cow elephant which was injured after coming in contact with live wires.

"But because of MCC, the programme was cancelled," a forester said. However, the PM spent around 5 mins at the Kekkanahalli check post. "He posed for a photo with the forest staff. Meanwhile, Bandipur Tiger Reserve driver Madhusudhan who drove the PM's jeep described it as an unforgettable experience.

TOP 12 MEE SCORING TIGER RESERVES

TIGER RESERVE	MEE SCORE (In %)
PERIYAR	94.38
SATPURA	93.18
BANDIPUR	93.18
NAGARHOLE	92.42
KANHA	91.67
BRT	91.67
ANAMALAI	91.67
PENCH	90.91
BHADRA	90.91
KALI (ANSHI-DANDELI)	90.30
SIMILIPAL	90.15
MUDUMALAI	90.15

The report released on Sunday highlights the camera trap images and some foot patrolling data

MoEFCC official

'NO CONFLICT OF ECONOMY, ECOLOGY'

Mysuru: Wildlife protection is a universal issue, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday at the Karnataka State Open University convocation hall in Mysuru. Stating that India contributes to around eight per cent of the known global biodiversity, he said that India has not only saved the tiger population from declining but also provided an ecosystem where they can flourish, and was delighted that the tiger population has increased by 75 per cent. "India does not believe in a conflict between ecology and economy, and gives importance to their coexistence," Modi said, adding, "India is a country where protecting nature is a part of our culture". "India has the largest tiger range in the world, the largest Asiatic elephant range with around 30,000 elephants, and also the largest number of single-horn rhino with a population of roughly 3,000," he said. India's Asiatic lions numbers have increased from around 525 in 2015 to around 675 in 2020, he said, adding that the leopard population has jumped by more than 60 per cent over 4 years.

State takes giant strides, all tiger reserves in top 12

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

As India boasts of rise in tiger numbers, Karnataka has two things to cheer for.

An overall rise in numbers means that the figures will be impressive for the state too. Another aspect is that all five tiger reserves in Karnataka rank in the top 12 in the fifth Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves of India report released on Sunday by PM Narendra Modi along with the all India tiger estimates. As per the report, Bandipur shares the second position with Satpura Tiger Reserve, with a score of 93.18 per cent, in the excellent category.

Periyar tiger reserve topped with a score of 94.38 while Nagarhole tiger reserve bagged the fourth spot with a score of 92.42. Kanha came fifth with a score of 91.67.

The report showed that tiger reserves were analysed element wise. Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha were rated as top performers in terms of 'context' and got a perfect score, while Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, BRT Hills Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam scored maximum in planning.

Bhadra Tiger Reserve in Karnataka is only one to get the highest score under input while Satpura and Kanha Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh and Bandipur in Karnataka scored maximum under process. Kanha, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala scored maximum marks under output. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu got a hundred in outcome.

The assessment was done on 33 criterion, and each reserve was asked to evaluate itself. Then a three-member team was sent to evaluate the reserve, and also assess the report submitted by field directors. The criteria included status of tiger conservation plan, whether the core area is free from human and biotic interference, are buffer zones under unified control, status of habitat management plan, conflict mitigation plan, and so on.

'Green projects played key role'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WITH management activities, like prey augmentation, habitat restoration, and protection, there is a high potential for improving the tiger population in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, and Telangana, it stated.

The Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains landscape with 804 tigers and Terai region have found mention in the 200 globally important eco-regions for their unique large mammal assemblage. Experts felt that adopting an adequate number of green infrastructure projects is an important step in recovering the tiger population in a fragmented landscape. The report mentioned that the North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Plains landscape has 195 tigers and Sunderbans landscape 100.

The tiger population was estimated to be 1,411 in 2006. The numbers jumped to 1,706 in 2010. While 2,226 tigers were estimated in 2014, the total stood at 2,967 in 2018.

Modi launches International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)

At a time when the efforts of the country in protecting tigers have gained global recognition, the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) was launched in the city on Sunday.

More data to come in, final report in July

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

FACING questions from experts and forest department officials over a partial tiger estimate, ministry of environment and forests and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) officials said that the final report will be out in July as inclusion of cubs and other areas are being done.

A senior MoEFCC official told TNIE: "State-wise assessment will take time. The report released on Sunday highlights the camera trap images and some foot patrolling data. The final report will be released on July 29, International Tiger Day."

Experts and officials also questioned the methodology adopted in the assessment.

However, they have appreciated the potential areas the report highlights of Sharavathi landscape and areas around Kali tiger reserve that promise to house more tigers. A WII official said the information shared is only of the tiger reserves and select buffer zones. "Some regions are yet to share information. The areas outside forest patches, which were assessed are yet to compiled," the official said.

Experts wondered why the Western Ghats landscape show a drop in numbers by 157. "Western Ghats covers 12 tiger reserves. Drop from 981 tigers in 2018 to 824 in 2022 is worrisome," an expert said.

Vande Bharat Express from Hyd to B'luru on cards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

TELANGANA is set to get another Vande Bharat Express soon, which is expected to run between Secunderabad and Bengaluru. Prime Minister Narendra Modi disclosed this information to the State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders during his visit to Hyderabad on Saturday.

Ahead of next month's Assembly elections in Karnataka, BJP leaders and workers have been informing the voters that a new 'Make in India' train will soon be coming to the State, said party sources.

During Saturday's public meeting at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, the Prime Minister mentioned that doubling and electrification of the railway line between Secunderabad and Mahbubnagar will enhance the Hyderabad-Bengaluru connection.

Focus on polls: Modi

Despite a busy schedule, Modi spoke to Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, BJP State president Bandi Sanjay, MP K Laxman, MLA Eatala Rajender, party's national vice-president DK Aruna and other State BJP leaders during his visit to Hyderabad.

Modi informed them that he would visit Hyderabad two more times before Telangana goes to Assembly elections later this year. He directed the party leaders to avoid padayatras and bus yatras due to time constraints and instead focus on exposing Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's failures as well as issues like the TSPSC question paper leak to challenge the State government.

The PM advised the BJP leaders to focus on promoting the party symbol, instead of personal promotion. He informed them that the party's parliamentary board would select candidates for the elections and that everyone should work together for party's success.

He urged the leaders not to differentiate between old and new party members and to treat everyone equally.

First-of-its-kind joint CPI and CPM meet held in Hyd

Hyderabad: The general secretaries of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPM), D Raja and Sitaram Yechury, respectively, during a joint public meeting held in Hyderabad on Sunday, expressed their belief that the unity of Communist parties is both unprecedented and inevitable, as envisioned by Communist stalwarts. This marks the first time that State units of Communist parties have come together for such an event. The leaders coined the slogan "March together and fight together" from this common platform, pledging to hold talks at the national level as well. CPI and CPM leaders also emphasised the importance of forming alliances with secular parties and people's movements in order to "dethrone Prime Minister Narendra Modi." Stating the joint convention of CPI and CPM is unprecedented, Yechury said, "The joint leadership of Telangana communist parties have shown a new way forward."

EXPRESS READ

TTD mulls more facilities for devotees

Tirumala: Anticipating summer rush, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) is contemplating to increase quality of services and facilities to the devotees thronging the hill shrine starting mid-April. In this regard, TTD executive officer AV Dharma Reddy, for the first time, requested the staff to work hard and find out a way to include more number of devotees to have a glimpse of the Lord everyday. According to the reports, additional 3,500 devotees reached Tirumala on foot through Alipiri along with regular 10,000 Divya Darshan devotees.

EDITORIAL

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go

TS Eliot

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TIME TO GO AFTER ROGUE COW VIGILANTES WITH AN IRON HAND

When a delegation of Muslim leaders meets the second most powerful person in the land, as it did last week and gushes about the positivity in the talks later, it should symbolise hope. Worried over the recent cycle of communal violence during Ram Navami processions in Bengal and elsewhere, the delegation comprising Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind leaders and All India Muslim Personal Law Board members shared their concerns with Union home minister Amit Shah. Some Muslim intellectuals raised almost the same hot-button topics when they met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in August last year. Yet, nothing on the ground appears to have changed, they recently wrote to Bhagwat disappointedly. There is no kill switch to suddenly shut down hate speech, even if the Hindutva leadership might want to use it.

The BJP appears to be warming up to the Muslims for its electoral interests. It wants to fracture their vote monolith by drawing the Pasmandas, the poor in the community who constitute the vast majority of the population. The delegation that met Shah returned with the impression that he was completely different from his image of a hardliner, as he heard them out, was receptive to ideas and wasn't in denial about hate speech and sporadic incidents of mob lynching. Shah concurred with their concern about the mushrooming of cow vigilante groups and the need to rein them in. The problem with the Bajrang Dal, floated during the height of the Ayodhya movement, is that it had liberally inducted musclemen and indoctrinated them to bully the minorities. After the Babri demolition, while its leaders like Vinay Katiyar got positions of power, its foot soldiers ended up as loose cannons. Many were expelled from the Bajrang Dal, who later went on to create outfits that were far more radical and became self-styled cow vigilantes.

Impartial policing, with the long arm of the law going after such rogue elements with as much ferocity as it sends bulldozers to the properties of perceived anti-social minorities in BJP-ruled states, is the need of the hour. Going forward, the Hindutva leadership and Muslims must unequivocally condemn incidents that tear our social fabric apart instead of indulging in selective amnesia. Unfortunately, the one thing both sides seem to agree upon is regressive—blocking same-sex unions. Their canvas of convergence needs to be far wider to smoke out Islamophobia, and nurture communal amity and national integrity.

DENYING TRUTH IN GUISE OF FIGHTING FAKE NEWS

Fake news and the spread of misinformation are a big threat to society and must be dealt with deftly. However, the latest change in the IT Rules and its wording should raise concern. The amendments now "make it obligatory on the intermediaries to not to publish, share or host fake, false or misleading information in respect of any business of the Central Government". The way the rules are worded could be interpreted as targeting news outlets publishing uncomfortable truths on the grounds that they are fake/misleading.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has clarified that once the government's fact-checking unit flags any information as fake or misleading, it will not force the platform to remove the same. But the government/government department is free to take legal action against the platform if the same is not removed.

What concerns people is the possible 'arbitrariness' in flagging certain information about the government as fake. It could be used to harass those reporting uncomfortable truths about the government or its policies. A few years ago, a rookie business reporter reported that the government was not publishing the Periodic Labour Force Survey by the National Statistics Office as it painted a negative picture of the employment scenario in the country. The government machinery hounded the reporter and the newspaper, calling the report fake. But ultimately, it had to release the same survey, and it turned out that the report was correct. What if such information is flagged as fake, forcing the platform to remove it?

Even if the government meticulously defines the meanings of fake, false or misleading information, there would be enough legroom for it to flag genuine information as fake. The concern is about the possibility of certain information being flagged as fake while ignoring others that show the ruling party in a positive light. The chance of legal action by the government on the platform is a big issue to ignore. How many platforms will have the resources and heft to fight a legal battle against the government? The fight against fake news should not be used as a tool for muzzling free speech.

QUICK TAKE

LIGHTNING IS A DISASTER

There is a case for declaring lightning a natural disaster. Cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, fires, floods, tsunamis, cloudbursts, pest attacks and cold waves are disasters under the State Disaster Response Fund. Lightning causes a third of all disaster-caused deaths in India. The mortality rate is high in rural areas. Studies already show a rise of one degree Celsius increases lightning frequency strikes by 12%. It also impacts the agriculture, aviation, power, and communication sectors. The government must consider declaring lightning a natural disaster. We need more research on lightning, invest in smartphone applications, identify lightning hotspots and modernise lightning detection systems.

The city has grown and expanded in ways that would have been impossible to imagine fifty years ago

BENGALURU, ITS MEMORIES AND ELECTION FEVER

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Professor of English at JNU

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

I am on my way back to Delhi from Karnataka's capital and India's tech hub, Bengaluru. Not journalistic, let alone political, my trip was aimed at building partnerships and intellectual platforms that this city really needs and deserves. Without going into too many specifics, I found considerable enthusiasm for such a push among a wide range of influential Bangaloreans.

Already an entrepreneurship and innovation hub, Bengaluru should also ramp up its presence as an intellectual and cultural powerhouse. The city is very special to me because I grew up here. My father worked in a company way outside the city limits, in Whitefield. Today it is India's IT core. So famous, even magical, is its name, that areas dozens of kilometres away are also known as Whitefield. Originally a settlement of our erstwhile "white" masters, it had its own railway station, with the military owning much of the land in the vicinity. After the departure of the British, only a few Anglo-Indians remained in old colonial bungalows when I was a little boy.

Kids of the company's top management were bussed to schools far away in the city. Mine was Bishop Cotton Boys' School, on St Marks Road, founded in 1865. Similar to 19th century colonial institutions, it was meant initially for the children of Europeans. Later, Indians, too, were admitted in large numbers. It is still very well regarded, with its alumni continuing to make significant contributions to the city, country, and the world at large.

We went to school via the Old Madras Road. The entire stretch from Whitefield was deserted till the Indian Telephone Industries or ITI crossing and the K R Puram station. Further up, you had Kissan and NGEF (New Government Electrical Factory), the latter set up with German collaboration. With the wave of industrialisation in the 1970s, many companies such as Graphite India, Bhoruka Steel, Suri and Nayar, established themselves near Hoodi.

After Ulsoor, with its big temple, you came to Lido, famous for screening 70 mm movies. I remember seeing my first movie, *The Sound of Music*, in 1967, more than a year after its original Hollywood release. Indiranagar, one of Bengaluru's most sought-after residential colonies, did not exist. The other way to town, passing Varthur, Marathalli and the old airport, had one of India's biggest companies—Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). You passed through miles of military establishments to reach M G Road and Trinity Church.

Though we lived so far away, I never felt like an outsider in Bengaluru. The city had its distinct localities and communities. Apart from Kannada, many languages, including Tamil, Telugu and Deccani Hindi, could be heard on its streets. And, of course, English was widely spoken, especially among the city's educated. Situated on a plateau 3000 feet above sea level, Bengaluru has the best weather of any of India's biggest metros. In those days we rarely needed fans, except in April.

I left before I was fifteen for further studies to Chennai, Delhi and then the United States. Most of my classmates, whose families were from Bengaluru, remained here. When I visit after so many years, I find them welcoming and hospitable despite the passage of time. The city has grown and expanded in ways that would have been impossible to imagine fifty years ago. But it retains its essential cosmopolitan and relaxed character. What is more, it is now the pivot of Indian innovation and entrepreneurship, a global IT centre, and the nucleus of a large talent pool. Bengaluru is bustling with the young and aspirational. It is a place where they not only start their careers but launch a thousand dreams. Private enterprise, not governmentality, drives growth. No wonder it is the consumer capital of India, the first place where new products and ideas are launched.

Yes, I rode the new metro line from Whitefield to KR Puram inaugurated by PM Modi on March 25. It takes only 19 minutes; in a car you might reach in over an hour, depending on how bad Bengaluru's notoriously slow traffic is. I must say that the ride in the squeaky-clean new carriages was bordering on magical. Bengaluru resembled Singapore or Seoul from sights seen along the route.

Wherever I went and whoever I spoke to, politics invariably cropped up. Not surprising considering that Karnataka's Assembly elections are just a month away, on May 10. All the 224 seats in the state's Legislative Assembly are up for grabs. The results are expected on May 13. The last elections, held in May 2018, threw up an uncertain, three-cornered mandate, with the Bharatiya Janata Party leading the tally with 104 seats. Though invited to form the government, B S Yediyurappa, the BJP Assembly leader, resigned ten minutes before the trust vote three days later. The Congress, with 80, and Janata Dal (Secular), with 37, formed a coalition with H D Kumaraswamy of the latter party becoming chief minister. Fourteen months later, 16 MLAs from the coalition crossed over to BJP. Kumaraswamy lost the floor test, mustering only 99 votes to the BJP's 105. On July 26, 2019, a month after Narendra Modi won his second term as India's prime minister, Yediyurappa was sworn in as the state's chief minister for the fourth time. Two years later and after the Covid-19 pandemic, Karnataka got a new chief minister, Basavaraj Bommai, its 23rd. His father, S R Bommai, had been a Janata Dal CM in 1988.

Sociologist and former JNU colleague, Deepak Kumar, contends that "three Cs plague our society as nothing else does: corruption, casteism, and communalism." Karnataka, especially during election season, is no exception to this generalisation. Though predictions are hazardous in Indian politics, many believe that it will, once again, be a fractured mandate with no party getting a clear majority.

There is no doubt of some anti-incumbency, with allegations of corruption against the BJP, but on the other side, the Congress with its infighting and factionalism, isn't considered a much cleaner alternative either. If so, the father-son duo of JDS (Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy), will once again play the kingmakers. With the caste calculus so vital to the outcome, what will happen is anybody's guess. But, as an astute insider told me, "Don't forget that Modi and Shah not only know how to win but also how to ensure that their rivals lose."

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE LITTLE BOY WHO WENT SEARCHING FOR LOVE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

Happy Indian New Year for April 14. While each calendar high is a chance to start afresh, it's also nice to remember the stories that renew our sense of continuity. A poignant yet inspiring tale from Indian tradition is the legend of Dhruva, the child seeker. It is found in the *Vishnu Purana* and the *Bhagavat Purana*:

Dhruva was only five but what a bright, determined five. His gentle mother Suniti had a difficult time keeping up with his adventurous spirit and his cuts and grazes from play. Suniti was both worried about his safety and pleased with his boldness. After all, Dhruva was the eldest son of King Uttanapada and would be king one day. But Suniti had grown unsure about Dhruva's future after the king married a younger woman called Suruchi. Suniti was now the classic neglected wife, while Suruchi and her son Uttama were the king's favourites. Dhruva was too young to understand but one day the truth broke cruelly upon him.

One morning, Dhruva spotted his father seated on a garden bench holding Uttama. Dhruva bounded eagerly towards him and tried to climb onto his lap. But Suruchi pounced on Dhruva. Wrenching his arm, she angrily dragged him off the bench. "Wretched boy, you cannot sit on his lap, you are not my son! Pray to Lord Narayana to make you my son next time."

"Father!" cried Dhruva. But Uttanapada was so besotted with Suruchi that he said not a word. Dhruva choked on a sob and ran to his mother. Suniti felt helpless when Dhruva tearfully told her the story. "Perhaps she is right, son," she said sadly. Some hours later she was horrified to discover that Dhruva had vanished.

Dhruva had run away to the forest to find Lord Narayana, since by his childish logic, the Lord was clearly not in town. He marched boldly into it although his head felt light with fatigue and his heart heavy with misery. But the light began to fade and he sat down to rest.

"Narayana, Narayana!" said an astonished voice suddenly. "What are you doing alone in the forest, child?" It was a holy man carrying a lute.

Propelled by his training, Dhruva got up and bowed to him. The sage's eyes softened. Dhruva told him his story in a tired little voice.

"I am Narada, who roams the three realms," said the sage. "Listen to me, dear child. You are too young to take insults so much to heart. Your place is by your mother, playing with your toys. You say you want to find Lord Narayana. Child, do you know how difficult it is? Rishis and yogis have spent their whole lives looking for him. Let me take you home, your mother must be anxious."

> The hardest part was to picture Lord Narayana. But ... he formed an image in his mind's eye and began to repeat the mantra

"Please teach me how to find him," begged Dhruva, "Please." Remembering his own long and lonely quest for the Lord, Narada's heart went out to Dhruva. He decided to help him.

"I will take you through my yogic power to the forest of Madhuvan by the Yamuna. The Lord loves that place," he said, and in the blink of an eye, they were both in Madhuvan.

"Now choose a tree to sit under," said Narada and Dhruva chose a fine old pipal. "After I leave," said Narada, "sit cross-legged under it, shut your eyes, picture Lord Narayana in your mind and keep repeating this mantra – *Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya*."

"But what does Lord Narayana look like?" asked Dhruva innocently.

Narada's eyes lit up. "He is the most beautiful person you can ever hope to see, with large, dark eyes. He has four great arms, holding a conch, discus, mace and lotus. His complexion is as dark and lovely as the rainclouds. He wears a dhoti of bright yellow and a garland of wildflowers on his neck. He rides a great eagle called Garuda. There is no other like him."

After Narada left, Dhruva did everything he was told. The hardest part was to picture Lord Narayana. But point by point, he formed an image in his mind's eye and began to repeat the mantra.

Dhruva struggled for several days to find a pattern to his breathing as advised by Narada. The active little boy was unused to sitting still and developed terrible cramps in his arms and legs, while his neck grew painfully stiff. But Dhruva's determined little heart burned to find Lord Narayana and he stuck it out. Dhruva ate berries at first and then grass. He gradually gave up food and drank only water. By and by, he began to live on air for he grudged spending even a moment away from the beautiful image in his mind. His clothes turned to tatters and his little body became like a block of wood. Five months passed like this. The world found it hard to breathe because of the immense heat generated by Dhruva's *tapasya*. The celestials, having failed to disturb Dhruva, went to Lord Narayana. "Please take pity on him and on us," they pleaded.

"I will. He has been utterly immovable. He is the most extraordinary child I have seen," said the Lord.

Dhruva sat lost in the vision of Lord Narayana that had steadily grown more luminous with every passing week. But suddenly the vision blacked out. Dhruva cried aloud and opened his eyes.

There before him stood the Lord in dazzling splendour, a kind smile hovering on his lips. Speechless, Dhruva flung himself at the Lord's feet, long past caring about who loved him and who didn't.

The Lord spoke affectionately to Dhruva. "Your staunchness will not be in vain, my littlest devotee. Sage Narada will take you home now. Your father will welcome you with love and you will be king one day. When your time comes, I will place you above everyone else as a constant, shining star." And so it was and so it remains until this very day. 'Dhruva' is still our name for the Pole Star.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Pedestrians' challenges

In *Where is my walking space in the city* (Apr 9), Anuradha Goyal has given a voice to a silent but large community of walkers who find their spaces fast disappearing in the so-called metro cities. Walking on the road has become unsafe thanks to encroachments, heaps of dirt, etc. Absence of road lights at night is a problem for the elderly and women pedestrians. It is the duty of municipal authorities everywhere to free walking spaces and make pedestrians feel safe.
Samiul Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

Footpath woes

The article by Anuradha Goyal presents the true picture of the suffering of pedestrians in Bengaluru. In the name of widening roads, footpaths have been removed. Even where there is a semblance of a footpath, the area is occupied by roadside eateries and for selling vegetables, flowers, etc.
M B Balasubramanyam, Bengaluru

Minority insecurity

What George Alencherry said is on behalf of a larger community. The question is, why feel insecure? It is propaganda that a section of society wants to spread and divide people in the name of religion. He has made it clear what leadership is. Let his message reach people who believe in democratic values.
Ramachandran Nair, Malappuram

Communal clash

Apropos of *Cow slaughtered by UP saffron outfit to stoke outfit* (Apr 9). It is shocking to note that a few Bharat Hindu Mahasabha members slaughtered a cow to incite communal violence in the city of Taj during the Ram Navami celebration. The culprits should be given exemplary punishment for such heinous acts.
Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Karnataka elections

Apropos of *Ready to work under Kharge as CM, says DKS* (Apr 9). Statements like this will only make matters worse for the Congress as there is visible friction between DKS and Siddaramaiah. Since BJP is on the backfoot due to corruption charges and anti-incumbency, it is only pragmatic for the Congress to remain united and try to win this crucial election in Karnataka.
Bal Govind, Noida

Mumbai's losses

It is sad that five-time IPL champion Mumbai Indians has been reduced to a run-of-the-mill team from the last season. If in 2022 the franchise was placed at the bottom-most in standings, its campaign this year is no better as it has lost two games on a trot.
Sivakumar Kumar, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 59, No. 84 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
Under Bharatmala Pariyojana, we are developing Hapachara to Tulungia Section on NH-117 in the state of Assam.

Pinarayi Vijayan @pinarayivijayan
The CM of UP has lost balance. They are presenting a foolish theory of international plot rather than giving justice to the victim.

Siddaramaiah @siddaramaiah
Prime Minister @narendramodi, Is your purpose of coming to Karnataka is to give to Karnataka or to loot from Karnataka?

Shah to launch Vibrant Village plan in Arunachal

It's aimed at stopping people from moving out of villages near LAC

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

HOME Minister Amit Shah is reaching Arunachal Pradesh on Monday to launch a 'Vibrant Village Programme' in Anjaw district's Kibithoo, a strategically important location for India. The Home Minister will be in Arunachal for two days.

The programme, sources said, is aimed at stopping people from moving out of the villages located near the Line of Actual Control. This event of the Home Minister comes within days the Chinese act of renaming 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, which includes mountain peaks, rivers and places inhabited by people. India has rejected China's claim and stated Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of it.

The Centrally-sponsored scheme, 'Vibrant Villages Programme', was approved for comprehensive development of villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in four States and one Union territory— Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh (UT) abutting the northern border. A fund of ₹4,800 crore has been allocated for the programme for the period between 2022-23 and 2025-26.

The programme will cover a total of 2,967 villages, of which 662 border villages have been identified for comprehensive development on priority under the programme.

State-wise number of villages are as follows: Arunachal Pradesh- 455, Himachal Pradesh- 75, Ladakh (UT)- 35, Sikkim- 46 and Uttarakhand-51.

Under the programme, the focus will be on better road connectivity, supply of drinking water, 24X7 electricity supplies, including solar and wind energy, mobile and internet connectivity, tourist centres, multi-purpose centres, healthcare infrastructure and wellness centers.

Shah will also inaugurate nine micro hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh, constructed under the 'Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme; in Kibithoo.

India set to become third largest N-power producer by 2030

AMIT MUKHERJEE @New Delhi

INDIA will achieve a 20-gigawatt capacity of nuclear power generation by 2030, a major milestone that will place the nation as the third largest producer of atomic energy in the world after the USA and France, said Union Minister of State (independent charge) for science & technology Jitendra Singh.

The minister made these remarks while holding a review meeting with a group of senior scientists from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), in Mumbai.

Singh said as per the targets laid down by the atomic energy department, India is set to achieve 20 GW capacity of nuclear power generation by 2030. Singh mentioned that the credit for this rapid stride goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who for the first time after independence took the decision of approving 10 reactors in a single order and allowed nuclear installations to be developed under joint ventures with PSUs.

As a result, today India is the sixth largest in the world in the number of reactors that are functional and second largest in the total number of reactors including those under construction.

The minister also said that nearly 9 per cent share of electricity is likely to be contributed from India's nuclear sources by the year 2047 upon country's 100 years of independence and that this would help in achieving net zero target by 2070.

POWER GAMES

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Rajasthan Polls

BIRLA, VAISHNAW, SHEKHAWAT LEAD CM'S RACE IN BJP

The BJP's central leadership appears to have decided to launch a new set of leaders in Rajasthan as it prepares for state assembly election later this year. The party has moved out the state unit president and the leader of the opposition (LOP) from their posts. Gulab Chand Kataria, who was the LOP, has been sent as Governor of Assam, and state unit president Satish Poonia has been given the post of deputy leader of the opposition in the state assembly. The state's two top posts have been given to two new leaders. Chittorgarh MP C P Joshi has been made the state party president and Churu MLA Rajendra Rathore has been given the post of LOP. With the new appointments, the party has left former chief minister and arguably its most popular leader in the state Vasundhara Raje, without a post. She was reportedly keen on getting the post of LOP. That would have brought her back into the race for chief ministership. The BJP has a clear edge over a divided Congress in the state. The stakes are high for the party. But the central leadership has refused Vasundhara the post she desired. She was, however, allowed to put her protégé in the post. Similarly, newly appointed state president C P Joshi is considered close to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Birla, according to sources, is another strong contender for chief ministership. With his man becoming state chief, his position has further strengthened. Sources said minister for railways Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are also in the running for the state's top job post elections. The game is on. But while Shekhawat appears to be slipping, Vaishnav has strengthened his position through his work as a minister and by connecting with the people of the state. His recent address to a large gathering of his Brahmin community in the state made headlines within and outside the state. It was for the first time the soft-spoken bureaucrat-turned-politician was seen breathing fire in his political avatar. As the poll date approaches, the contest for the top post is expected to get hotter.

Om Birla

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Vasundhara Raje

Conned by Colleague

SANSAD TV STAFF LOSE CRORES IN PONZI SCHEME

About half of the 300-strong staff of the Indian Parliament's official broadcaster, Sansad TV, has been duped by a former colleague who had worked with them as a broadcast engineer for almost a decade. Among those who lost money are many journalists, including some very senior ones. The engineer told his friends in Sansad TV that he invests in the commodity market and the returns are huge. He invited his colleagues to invest and benefit from his knowledge of the market and excellent timing of buying and selling. The initial investors in his scheme received outrageously high returns. He would accept investments in units of ₹1,50,000, with an assured monthly return of ₹12,680 on each unit. As profits started pouring in, scores of Sansad TV staff invested in hundreds of units. Then, like in all Ponzi schemes, when the kitty got big, the conman disappeared with it, leaving the investors high and dry. The angry investors tracked him down at his hometown in Saharanpur where much drama followed at the local police station. The conman declared himself bankrupt but entered into a written agreement with the Sansad TV investors, promising to pay them back in small instalments starting next month. The media men who have not received any increment in the last four years and are in the middle of a Lok Sabha TV-Rajya Sabha TV merger mess are clinging to a piece of scrap hoping to salvage at least some of their hard-earned savings.

Maoist violence comes down as govt strikes at top leadership

AMIT MUKHERJEE @New Delhi

IN its revised strategy to deal with Left-wing extremism (LWE), the Central government has focussed on striking at the top leadership in the Naxals ranks over the last four years. The crackdown has led to a leadership crisis in the cadres, resulting in increase of surrenders and neutralisation of members which has brought down the violent incidents significantly.

As per the figures by Ministry of Home Affairs, the geographical spread of violence has significantly reduced and only 176 police stations of 45 districts reported violence in 2022 as compared to 465 cases reported at 96 districts in 2010.

The decline in geographical spread is also reflected in the reduced number of districts covered under the security related expenditure (SRE) scheme. Number of SRE districts reduced from 126 to 90 in April 2018 and further to 70 in July 2021. According to sources in MHA, in the last two years, one member of the Politburo - the apex body of the CPI (Maoist), and five central committee members have been arrested by security forces, two have surrendered, and one Milind Bapurao was killed during an encounter in the jungles of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra in 2021. Three other members have also died due to disease which added to the crisis.

In one of the recent actions this month, five top members of the Maoist cadre, including two who were carrying a reward of ₹25 lakh each on their head, were neutralised in an encounter in Jharkhand's Chatra. Six rifles, including two AK47 and two INSAS and several rounds of ammunition were recovered from them.

The government action against the leadership has incited a considerable amount of fear among the members of Politburo and Central Committee as they are avoiding direct meeting with their own cadre and only selected Naxalites are allowed to meet them.

"The forces have been able inflict considerable damage in the last few years as a result the strength of the top bodies have reduced considerably," an official said.

Vande Bharat may connect most pilgrimage circuits by Aug 15

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Chennai

THE Ministry of Railways is working on running 75-78 Vande Bharat trains, including the 13 rolled out already, connecting popular pilgrimage and tourist circuits in the country by August 15 this year.

"If everything goes in a planned way, most of tourists and pilgrimage places will be reachable by Vande Bharat trains by August 15, 2023," said a railway official, adding both the PM and railway minister are seriously about this target. This train will generate huge revenues if India's almost all famous pilgrimage places of all religions are connected through the service of this train, he added.

According to sources, South India is likely to get more Vande Bharat trains before 2024 linking pilgrimage, commercial and tourist places with state capitals. At present, 13 Vande Bharat trains are operational on different routes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently flagged off Vande Bharat train between Secunderable-Tirupati. A senior railway official, speaking to this newspaper in Chennai, said the Vande Bharat trains are running with over 100 per cent occupancy since the day its first service was started between New Delhi and Varanasi by the PM. In the next few days, Mahakal Ujjain temple and Ajmer Sharif shrine are set to be reachable by the Vande Bharat train, he said.

"The New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat train has registered a record earnings of more than ₹92.29 crore, maintaining 100 per cent occupancy on the completion of a year of its services from 2019 to 2020," an official said. The government has announced to roll out 400 Vande Bharat trains in next few years to make an estimate earnings of over ₹40,000 crores. Emboldened by earnings, the railway is also working to roll out the sleeper version of Vande Bharat trains by 2024-25 as works on it in progress.

According to a conservative estimate, Vande Bharat train services are benefiting more than 15 lakh people every month , including students, traders and professionals who mostly now preferring to travel by this train.

The prominent routes on which the services of Vande Bharat are available now include the New Delhi -Varanasi, Nagpur -Bilaspur, Chennai Coimbatore, Secunderabad -Tirupati, Mumbai Gandhinagar and How-New Jalpaiguri, besides others.

Pedestrian safety on focus as national highways turn killers

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

Rising number deaths on NHs a concern

Rising number of deaths on NHs has been a major cause of concern. As per the latest report on 'Road Accidents in India' released in December, 9,462 pedestrians died on NHs in 2021, over 16.9 per cent of total fatalities on national highways

TO ensure safety of pedestrians and minimise on-road fatalities on national highways, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) and designs after considering walkers count at major intersections and stretches.

Besides the pedestrian survey, suggestions from school authorities, local administrations, resident associations, industry owners and other stakeholders and institutions will also be carefully examined in finalisation of blueprints of the projects and site selection for facilities such as crossings, foot over bridges (FoBs) and sidewalks, the ministry has decided.

As part of its action plan aimed at curtailing pedestrian deaths on the national highways, the ministry will carry out a survey — count of wayfarers — according to which provisions for their safety would be made, said officials. The action plan and decision to conduct the survey is in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court Committee of Road Safety.

The minister has directed all the concerned officials and project implementing units to complete the survey by June to ensure proper development, implementation and maintenance of pedestrian facilities as per the manual of Indian Roads Congress (IRC).

"Pedestrian count survey may be conducted through consultants or third party contracts using automated or manual methods. For NH projects at DPR stage, designs may be done only after taking into consideration the pedestrian counts at major junctions and in stretches of significant pedestrian movements. Based on the survey reports and inspections, estimates may be framed and pedestrian-friendly specific works may be proposed as change of scope proposals or as standalone works for inclusion in Road Safety Annual Plan 2023-24," read a note issued by the ministry.

Rising deaths on the national highways has been a major cause of concern for the authorities. As per the ministry's latest report on 'Road Accidents in India' released in December, 9,462 pedestrians had died on the highways in 2021, which is 16.9 per cent of total fatalities that took place on the stretches under the jurisdiction of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). In 2021, 56,007 fatalities were reported on the national highways while the number in 2020 was 47,670 and 16.29 per cent of them (7,753) were pedestrians. The survey basically will serve as the guiding principle to make provisions for facilities such as FoBs, underpasses, lights, pedestrian signals, and road markings.

"Dedicated pedestrian track facility or in combination with cycle tracks may also be proposed on NHs in identified stretches to segregate pedestrians from high speed highway traffic," stated the note.

SC to hear pleas of Gujarat govt, Godhra convicts

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday bail pleas of several convicts serving life imprisonment in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala is scheduled to hear along with the bail applications a batch of pleas of the convicts challenging their convictions. On March 24, the SC had said it will dispose of the bail applications of the convicts on the next date of hearing.

It had taken note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat government, that he has to verify certain factual details with regard to some convicts.

The SC had extended the bail granted to one of the convicts on the ground that his wife was suffering from cancer. Mehta supported the extension of bail on medical grounds. On March 17, the SC had said it will hear on March 24 the appeal of the Gujarat government and the bail pleas of accused in the case. On February 20, the state had told the SC that it will be seeking death penalty to 11 convicts whose sentences in the Godhra case were commuted to life imprisonment by the Gujarat HC.

My work will speak: CJI keeps his word on judicial reforms

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

CJI DY Chandrachud after swearing in as the 50th CJI on November 9, 2022 had said that serving the ordinary citizens was his priority. While promising reforms in the registry and judicial process, he had said, "My work, not words, will speak."

Justice, according to the CJI, has never been a sovereign function but an essential service provided to citizens, and the judicial reforms that have been introduced by him after taking charge speak volumes of his commitment to ensuring access to justice to common man in its truest sense.

To reach out to the citizens in the language that they follow and understand, the Supreme Court (SC) under CJI DY Chandrachud's aegis had released on 74th Republic Day over 1,000 rulings translated in thirteen Indian languages — Assamese, Garo, Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. This was also introduced for Indianising the Indian judiciary.

To ensure transparency in the collegium's decision for recommending names for judges, the collegium led by him, in a pathbreaking move, commenced uploading detailed resolutions on SCs website so that people are aware about who has been selected, why and the yardsticks that have been applied for such recommendation.

CJI DY Chandrachud had launched a 'free text portal or search engine' — eSCR (Supreme Court Reports) the official publication of SC as a tribute to the nation. It will cater to the needs of young lawyers who cannot afford taking private subscriptions of various portals providing database of rulings. While introducing the eSCR and making available more than 34,055 judgments published since 1950 onwards, It includes the facility of searching judgments based on various parameters such as phrase, words, all words, name of the Hon. Judge, Bench strength, volume, citation, date of decision, etc in eSCR.

By employing artificial intelligence (AI) and high-tech tools, CJI to make SC "court of record", increase its accountability as a part of "judicial institution" and with an aim to help lawyers and students from law colleges also introduced live transcripts of constitution bench proceedings. CJIs commitment to accessibility and disability rights also resulted in him constituting "SC committee on accessibility" headed by Justice SR Bhat. The committee has been tasked with conducting accessibility audits of SC premises and its functioning, releasing questionnaires for persons with disabilities who visit SC, assess the nature and extent of the problems they face and prepare reports containing results.

With a view to point out discrimination against women in society, legal profession and language employed in the legal discourse, CJI had also unveiled the ongoing exercise of creating a legal glossary consisting list of words and terms that should be refrained by judges in their judgements and proceedings before the court.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Around 2.82 lakh passport verification applications were cleared and only 805 rejected in three years, J&K Police said as it defended "deep vetting" of activities of several sections.

3 DIE AFTER EATING 'POISONOUS' MUSHROOM IN ASSAM

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	22	Mumbai	34	25
Bhopal	29	18	Panaji	29	23
Jaipur	29	18	Patna	31	20
Amritsar	25	14	Lucknow	28	19
Chennai	32	25	Port Blair	32	25
Kolkata	30	22	Imphal	25	13
Srinagar	16	08	Chandigarh	24	18

ITBP women become captains of their ponies & dogs

The paramilitary force has the distinction of being the first CAPF to induct eight women in the animal wing of the force

HAPREET BAJWA
@Bhanu (Panchkula)

YOU can't separate care from a woman, and the element of security and protection from her. Eight women personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have committed themselves to nurture a unique bonding with their ponies and dogs to make loyal soldiers out of the animals.

These days the women are learning to move ration and other goods through ponies at border outposts (BOPs).

They have also become dog handlers captaining their K9 teams that will be deployed as Patrol Explosive Detection Dogs (PEDD).

This is the first time the glass ceiling has been broken in the field of dog handling and animal transport in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The paramilitary force has the distinction of being the first CAPF in the country to induct eight women into the Animal Wing of the force.

They can be deployed anywhere where their audacious 'soldiers' can detect explosives and challenge their adversaries in Maoist hideouts in eastern and south-central India.

Women personnel have also been taught horse management, training in the loading of ponies| EXPRESS

The women personnel finished their training for dog handling in January this year and will finish their training for animal transport by this weekend.

They will now be deployed with their faithful Malinois dogs that have passed out from the ITBP National Training Centre for Dogs (NTCD) at Basic Training Centre (BTC), Bhanu near Panchkula (Haryana).

"These lovely dogs are named Tuffy, Rony, Spark, Axl, Charlie, Juli, Merry and Anny," said an officer.

Sources said that these women have also been taught horse management, training in the loading of ponies and various aspects of the movement of loaded ponies along with horse riding.

Talking with this newspaper, Ishwar Singh Duhan Inspector General of the Basic Training Centre of ITBP in Bhanu said earlier these women were recruited in the ITBP's medical, clerical and education cadre.

"These new inductees have undergone vigorous training by developing an understanding with their pups. The pups were trained for three-month basic obedience, learning how to follow commands. Finally, they learn explosive detection for three months. Each day, they are trained for at least six hours," said Duhan.

The officer said dogs are keener to obey the voice command of women than men as women are more caring and loving in nature.

"Our confidence levels have increased tremendously in the handling of the animals. Only through rigorous training, we learn to overcome our fear of a big horse," said a trainee constable, Pratibha. aid dogs are keener to obey the voice command of women than men as women are more caring and loving in nature.

Since this National Centre for Training of Dogs and Animals was established by the ITBP at Bhanu around 2,500 dogs of various forces have been trained here.

1 killed, 2 held as Army foils infiltration bid along LoC

An infiltrator was killed and two others captured alive, all the three belonging to PoK, as army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Troops also recovered 17 kgs of narcotics from the captured infiltrators. Jammu-based Defence spokesman Lt Col Devender Anand said troops observed a suspicious movement of a group of three individuals close to the Line of Control in Poonch sector at around 10.15 pm on Saturday. He said at around midnight the group crossed the LoC and started infiltrating on to this side. "The troops kept the movement of the infiltrating group under continuous observation. At around 2 am, as the group approached the border fence, the army men challenged the infiltrators," the defence spokesman said. He said the intruders, who started to run away, were engaged by gunfire. "In the firing one intruder was killed while two others managed to run into the jungle taking advantage of the thick foliage and rocky outcrop," the defence spokesperson said.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
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Loyalists raise slogans for Gehlot as CM again

In a Congress event, Water Supply Minister Mahesh Joshi raised slogans demanding Ashok Gehlot to be made the CM for the fourth time. This sloganeering happened in front of state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and has set off major discussions in political corridors. Joshi is accused of convening a meeting of the Parallel Legislature Party on September 25, 2022 at UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal's bungalow. Action is pending against him for several months now. Experts say that Joshi was giving a message to the Pilot camp.

New appointments in BJP, Raje's future unclear

Before the assembly elections in Rajasthan, the BJP high command has tried to prevent rift in the state unit by appointing CP Joshi as state president and Rajendra Rathore as Leader of Opposition. But political corridors are buzzing about political future of former CM Vasundhara Raje. In the last few years, Raje has consistently shown her influence through Dev Darshan tours or her huge birthday celebrations - the message was that she is still the big face of BJP in Rajasthan. But with all key posts filled, questions are being raised if she will play an important role in the in Rajasthan elections.

Fans mourn death of Voice of Rajasthan

The voice behind, "Khamma Ghani Sa....", on radio and stage, Zafar Khan Sindhi, a famous senior announcer of three languages, passed away on Sunday. He was 59-years-old and was suffering from cancer for a long time. A large number of people from every section of the society and community participated in his funeral in Jodhpur. One of his remarkable works was that he promoted the Rajasthani language through his voice. He also worked as a cultural correspondent and feature editor in many newspapers of Jodhpur. His voice was even resounded in the Indian Embassy of Britain through a short movie.

C'garh elections: Saffron camp sharpens strategy

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE BJP which faced its worst electoral losses in Chhattisgarh Assembly polls in 2018 has drawn up an action plan, aiming to enhance its vote share, in coordination with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The party has decided corner the ruling Congress government at every level.

As per sources familiar with the development, the strategy to win the Assembly polls has been chalked out in accordance with the roadmap approved during the crucial marathon meeting of the senior RSS functionaries of the central zone and the BJP leaders. However, what actually transpired during the course of discussions in the meeting has been kept confidential. The party leaders and cadres have been exhorted to highlight the failures and corruption of the Congress and devote their efforts for the rights of the people.

"We had to focus on every assembly seat for which the strategy has been formulated during the meeting of the leaders. Among others, the local issues will remain in focus. The BJP will go to the people raising issues like PM Awas, liquor prohibition and unemployment," said Raman Singh, BJP national vice-president and former chief minister. The BJP has been asked to move ahead in coordination with the organisations linked to RSS, the sources said.

RSS pressed the need to expand outreach

RSS leaders during their meeting reiterated the need to expand and intensify its outreach in villages while deliberating on carrying forward the plans at the grassroots level. The BJP has been asked to move ahead in coordination with the organisations linked to the RSS, the sources said.

RSS leaders during their meeting reiterated the need to expand and intensify its outreach in villages while deliberating on carrying forward the plans at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, CM Bhupesh Baghel took a dig at the Opposition saying, "The BJP knows very well that however hard it might try along with the RSS, the government formation in Chhattisgarh is not within their capability. More than the BJP or RSS, it's the ED that is more active in the state."

OBC QUOTA

EC notifies UP civic body polls, voting on May 4, 11

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

MODEL code of conduct came into force in Uttar Pradesh with the State Election Commission (SEC) notifying the Local Urban Body polls and announcing the dates of voting in two phases on May 4 and May 11, here on Sunday evening. The results will be announced on May 13. State Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar issued the notification for the elections.

The SEC announced the poll dates soon after the state government issued the fresh notification of the reservation of OBCs, SC/ST in Urban Local bodies across the state on Sunday. Earlier, the state government had issued the draft proposal for the quota on March 31 on the basis of the recommendation of the five-member Backward Commission listing the reserved seats for the three-tier civic body. The objections over the list were sought by April 6.

Out of the 17 posts of Mayor, 199 of chairpersons of Nagar Palika Parishad and 534 Nagar Panchayats – which add up to 760 total seats – 205 posts have been reserved for OBCs, 288 for women of all categories, 110 for SCs and two for STs.

Catch-22 for Nagaland CM over women reservation in civic polls

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Nagaland government is caught in Catch-22 on urban local bodies (ULBs) elections in the state. If it holds the polls with 33% reservation of seats for women, it will invite the wrath of some powerful tribal organisations and if it does not go ahead with the process, it will face action for contempt of an order of the SC.

On March 9, the State Election Commission announced that the ULBs election would be held to the state's three municipal and 36 town councils on May 16 with 33% reservation of seats for women. However, it canceled the notification on March 30 as the Assembly on March 28 resolved to repeal the Nagaland Municipal Act, 2001 and with immediate effect.

Subsequently, on April 5, the Supreme Court stayed the government notification that canceled the ULBs election after hearing a contempt petition filed by some organisations.

Earlier, several influential tribal organisations threatened to boycott the election if it is conducted without repealing the Municipal Act that allows reservation for women and empowers the ULBs to collect property taxes.

The tribal bodies contested that quota for women would be an infringement on the Naga customary laws, as enshrined in Article 371(A) of the Constitution that protects its traditional way of life. They also have reservations about property taxes.

Nagaland stats

- Total population: More than **20 lakh**
- Female literacy rate: 76.11%
- Gender gap: **1000** males for **931** females child sex ratio: **944** per **1,000** males
- March 2: For first time, **2** women
- MLAs were elected

On April 4, one day ahead of the Supreme Court order staying the cancellation of the polls, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had said the government would not hold the election if people so wanted.

The first civic body elections in Nagaland were held in 2004 but without reservation. Two years later, the Municipal Act was amended to provide for 33% reservation for women.

In 2017, the state made an attempt to go to polls with 33% reservation for women but it backfired. Protestors attacked and set ablaze government buildings in parts of the state which saw the then CM TR Zeliang losing his chair. Rio does not want a 2017-like situation. The state is likely to hold a "consultative meeting" with the leaders of tribal organisations in the next few days.

"People want the ULBs polls but they stand opposed to the collection of property taxes and reservation of the post of chairperson in the ULBs for women," a BJP leader told this newspaper. Nagaland is ruled by a coalition of the BJP and NDPP.

ONE-HORNED MENACE

What's itching them: Rhinos run amok in Bengal farm land, destroy crops

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

PEASANTS of Alipurduar are facing a bizarre problem —rhinos are frequently raiding their corn fields. The one-horned animals have no interest in the grain, but they rub their skin against the rough edges of the leaves to get some relief from itching, leaving the plants damaged.

The trouble started a fortnight ago at Chilapata, a pocket in the Alipurduar district where agriculture is is the main source of income. Seeing damaged corn plants in the mornings, farmers decided to keep overnight surveillance.

'While keeping a watch, we found rhinos entering fields. Initially, we thought the animals would eat the corn. But we were surprised when noticed they smashed the plants by rubbing their skin and walked out of the area without eating the product," said Abu Alam, one of the affected farmers. Alam said the farmers tried to drive away by shouting and pelting stones. ''But it did not prove effective. Fearing attack, we did not dare to go close to them and the rhinos were least troubled by our strategy to driving them out," he said.

SEEKING RELIEF
Elephants and rhinos often rub their skin against the trunks of large trees to get relief from itching
One-horned animals rub their skin against the rough edges of the corn leaves Rhinos show no interest in eating corns
Pelting stones at rhinos at corn fields is a dangerous act

Taher Ali, another farmer, said he spent his life chasing away elephants from the fields. ''But we never experienced such incident caused by rhinos. It is a question of our bread and butter. I request the forest department to find out an immediate solution so that we can save our product which is still left unaffected," he said.

Rajendra Jakhar, the chief conservator of forests (wildlife), north, said chasing away rhinos by pelting stones can be very dangerous.

"After being hit by stones, if the animals start attacking the farmers, it can be deadly. We tried to make the farmers understand about the consequences, but our efforts proved futile," he explained. Forest department officials said elephants and rhinos rub their skin against the trunks of large trees to get relief. So, rhinos are following the same practice in corn fields," said an official.

BJP books special train for J'khand protest

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

BJP booked a special train from Godda to Hatia stations to facilitate its workers taking part in the agitation being staged at state secretariat in Ranchi on April 11, which has sparked controversy in Jharkhand.

For the first time in the last three years of JMM-led alliance rule in Jharkhand, BJP will be staging an agitation against Hemant Soren government on April 11 over unemployment, corruption and 'deteriorating' law and order situation in the state under the slogan — Hemant Hatao — Jharkhand Bachao.'

It began after Godda MP Nishikant Dubey announced that a special train has been arranged for the BJP workers which will depart from Godda at 10:45 am on April 10 and reach Hatia next day at 3 pm.

Fuming over the special train, JMM questioned, 'Who will be held responsible for the inconvenience caused due to this at a time when Adra Rail Division is already disturbed due to ongoing movement of 'Kurmi' agitators demanding ST status for them.

'Dead' woman walks into police station to free brother jailed for her 'murder'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

COPS in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh were confronted with a complex question, whose answer lay perhaps, in the DNA analysis of a young woman.

A woman married in Agar-Malwa district and mother of two kids recently walked into a police station in Chhindwara district, claiming to be Kanchan Uike, who was allegedly abducted and murdered by her father and brother in 2014. While her father has come out of jail last month only on bail, brother continues to be behind the bars in the same case.

In June 2014, a 14-year-old girl Kanchan Uike went missing mysteriously. Subsequently a case was registered under Section 363 IPC (kidnapping) at Amarwara police station of Chhindwara district.

It, however, took the police seven long years to find out where actually the abducted Kanchan was. "Grilling of Kanchan's father by the Singodi police outpost in-charge in 2021 revealed that the girl was actually murdered and buried by her father and brother. Based on the father-son duo's admission, a human skeleton was exhumed from the place told by the accused duo. The DNA analysis report in the matter, however, is awaited, and a charge-sheet has been filed in the court. While the murder accused father has recently come out on bail, the co-accused son remains in jail," additional SP Sanjiv Uike said.

In 2021, cops found woman's 'skeleton'

Based on the father-son duo's admission, a human skeleton was exhumed from the place told by the accused duo. However, the report then had said discovery of 210 bones, when human body has 206 bones.

Surprisingly, the police documents pertaining to the recovery of the skeleton in 2021, reportedly mentioned the recovery of 210 bones, although it's an established fact that the human body has 206 bones.

According to Kanchan's uncle Sukhdas Uike, the place from where Kanchan's alleged skeleton was exhumed in 2021, actually bears the graves of all other deceased members of the extended Uike family and it's quite possible that the skeleton exhumed from the ground could actually be someone else's skeletal remains.

In a dramatic twist, the woman claiming to be the same Kanchan Uike walked into the concerned police station in Chhindwara district and submitted that she was alive and had neither been abducted or murdered in 2014.

"I went on my own in anger over a tiff in the family in 2014 and later got married. I live with my family, including two kids in Agar-Malwa district now. I recently came to know about my father and brother being in jail on false charges of murdering me, after which I rushed here," the woman claiming to be Kanchan Uike said.

She accused the cops of torturing her father and brother to make false admission of murdering her.The ASP said, "Nine years have passed since the incident. The appropriate legal procedure will be followed in the matter and her DNA too will now be matched."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mrs.SHAKIRUNNISA,** residing at No.38, Stephens Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560005.

If any person/s have/has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the supporting documents, within 10 days from the date of this Notice.

The Objections or claims received after expiry of the stipulated time will not be binding on our client and our will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the converted lands bearing (1) Survey No.34/1, measuring 15.538 Guntas, (2) Survey No.34/2, measuring 4 Guntas and Survey No.34/3, measuring 13.462 Guntas, in all measuring 33 Guntas, situated at Chagalatti Village, Jala Hobli, Bagalur, Bangalore North Taluk, duly converted for Non-agricultural Residential purposes vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(Jala.Bagalur) S.R/07/2014-15, Dated 22.04.2016 and bounded as follows that is to say:

East by : Private Land bearing Survey No.33/1, **West by :** Bangalore to Bagalur Road, **North by :** Private Lands **South by :** Lands in Survey No. 34/1 & 34/3,

Unnikrishnan. M & Associates
Advocates
No. 46, 1st 'A' Cross, AECS Layout Road,
Near ISRO, RMV II Stage,
Bangalore - 560 094.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to give notice to the Public that I the undersigned has share in the Schedule mentioned property originally belonged to Mr. Narayan Chetty, any person/s who are intending to purchase / enter into Joint Development or any other transaction shall be doing so at their own cost and risk as I have not executed any documents in this regard.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with construction standing thereon of Property Nos. 74, 75 & 76 St. John's Road, Bangalore, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on :-
East by: St. John's Road
West by: Private Property.
North by: Private Property.
South by: Private Property.
Which includes Raju Bar also.

Shilpa Anantha.S
#1119. GF-1, V N Enclave,
9th Cross, BSK Ist Stage,
II Block, Bangalore-50
(M) 9739069696.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. SNTGSUWAT-022023-MSDACIPS

Name of work :	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF MULTI SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER (MSDAC) AND INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY (IPS) SYSTEM AT RECEPTION YARD (RYD) OF WALTAIR MARSHALLING YARD IN CONNECTION WITH REPLACEMENT OF MECHANICAL SIGNALLING SYSTEM WITH ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEM.
Advertised Value :	₹ 6,80,21,101/-, EMD: ₹4,90,100/-, Period of completion: 6 months.
Bidding start date :	12.04.2023, Tender closing date & time : at 1200 hrs. of 26.04.2023.
	Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
	Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer /GSU/ PR-05/CG/23-24	Waltair

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are notified that my clients are negotiating to take the immovable property consisting of the lands in **Sy.No. 132/1** of **Kengeri village**, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk measuring an extent of **00-05-08 (five guntas eight annas)** out of 1 Acre 14 Guntas excluding 2 Guntas of Kharab on **LEASE** from the OWNERS namely **M Krishnappa**, S/o Late Muniyappa; his son **K. Pradeep Kumar.** Any persons, Legal entities having any kind of any rights, title, interests in the ownership and possession of the lands or any claims, objections to the above LEASE of these lands to my clients, shall lodge their objections, claims with the under signed Advocate in writing within **15 days** of this Public Notice. If no valid and tenable objections or claims are received, registered within the stipulated time, my clients shall go ahead with the Lease of the LANDS from the owners as **bonafide lessees** for value and shall not be responsible for any claims, objections lodged, made thereafter.
Signed and delivered on this the 9th day of April, 2023 at Bangalore.

Dinesh Neelkant Gaonkar, Advocate
M/s Dinesh Gaonkar and Associates
Advocates & Legal Consultants
No. 71, CM Plaza, ground floor, Chamber No. 3, 8th cross, 1st main, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru- 560 027; Contact: +91-9845448266
E mail: advdngbangalore@gmail.com

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE.No. SR-TVC-GSU-SNT/22-23/04 dated 05.04.2023.

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tenders for the following work.

Tender No.: TVC-GSU-SNT-22-23-04
Name of work : Provision of Integrated Passenger Information system in connection with Amrit Bharat Scheme at NCJ, KZT, NYY, CRY and ALP stations of TVC division
Tender No.: TVC-GSU-SNT-22-23-05
Name of work : Provision of Integrated Passenger Information system in connection with Amrit Bharat Scheme at KYJ, MVLK, TRVL, CGY and ETM stations of TVC division
Tender No.: TVC-GSU-SNT-22-23-06
Name of work : Provision of Integrated Passenger Information system in connection with Amrit Bharat Scheme at TRTR, AFK> CKL' GUV and WKI stations of TVC division

Sl No.	Cash Value (Approx.) (Rs.Ps)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Last Date for Receipt of Tender	Completion period
1	3,81,99,337.63	3,41,000/-	27.04.2023 14.00 Hrs	06 Months
2	4,22,69,060.06	3,61,400/-	27.04.2023 14.00 Hrs	06 Months
3	33532425.36	317700.00/-	27.04.2023 14.00 Hrs	06 Months

Complete details & tender document will be available at www.ireps.gov.in.

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2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru -560 002. E-mail : ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank
Contact No: 8369255990, 9611045818

APPENDIX-IV-A

[See Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Enforcement Rules, 2002]

Notice of 15 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the provision of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) mentioned below that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru** concerned branches. Secured Creditor will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** basis, by Public E-Auction on **26.04.2023, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM** for recovery of dues as mentioned below together with future interest and legal other expenses due to the bank/Secured Creditor from respective borrowers. The Reserve Price for Property, the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Description of Property etc., are given below.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Description of the Property	Amount Due	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1	**1. Sri. Ajit Kumar R** S/o Ramappa, Flat No. 303, B, 2nd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment", Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru. **2.Sri. Harshajith.R.** S/o Ramappa, Flat No. 303, B, 2nd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment", Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru. **3. Mr. M Ramappa** S/o Mr. Maraiah, Flat No. 404, B, 3rd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment" Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru.	**SCHEDULE A** : All that part and parcel of Land bearing portion of Site No.20, Industrial Suburb, Yeshwanthpura, 2nd stage, Bengaluru – Tumkur Service Road, Bengaluru – 560022 within BBMP limits, BBMP Ward No.11, Peenya Industrial Suburb and measuring East to West: 91'-2" Feet and North to South 145'-5"feet, in all measuring 13,250 Sq.Ft and bounded as follows: East by: Portion of Site No.20, West by: 4th Main Road, North by :Service Road, South by: Portion of Site No. 20. **SCHEDULE B** : All that part and parcel of Flat No. 303, on the 2nd Floor of the Block-'B', presently assigned Corporation New Khata No. 20/B-303, The Unique property ID (P.I.D No. 11-50-20/B-303) of the building known as "Ramana Jyothi Apartment", The apartment Complex constructed on Schedule A property along with 142 Sq.Ft of Undivided Share in Schedule 'A' property containing one bed room , admeasuring total 634.61 Sq.Ft of Super Built up area and One open Car Parking area vide no. 11 .	**Rs. 4,32,64,623.87/- (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Six hundred Twenty Three and Eighty Seven Paise only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs 40,80,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Eighty Thousand only)**	**Rs. 4,08,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eight Thousand only)**
2	**1. Sri. Ajit Kumar R** S/o Ramappa, Flat No. 303, B, 2nd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment", Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru. **2.Sri. Harshajith.R.** S/o Ramappa, Flat No. 303, B, 2nd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment", Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru. **3. Mr. M Ramappa** S/o Mr. Maraiah, Flat No. 404, B, 3rd Floor, No.20, "Ramanajyothi Apartment" Opp. CMTI, Tumkuru Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru.	**SCHEDULE A**: All that part and parcel of the land bearing Site No.20, situated at Industrial Suburb, Yeshwanthpura, 2nd stage, Tumkur Main Service Road, Bengaluru – 560022 measuring approximately 13,250 Sq.Ft, East to West: 91 Feet 2 inches and North to South 145 feet 5 inches , which is bounded on the; East by: Portion of Site No.20, West by: 4th Main Road, North by : Service Road, South by: Portion of Site No. 20. **SCHEDULE B** : All that piece and parcel of residential Flat No. 404, in 3rd Floor of Block B in the building known as "Ramana Jyothi Apartment", The apartment Complex constructed on Schedule A property along with 142 Sq.Ft of Undivided Share in Schedule 'A' property containing one bed room , admeasuring total 634.61 Sq.Ft of Super Built up area.	**Rs. 4,32,64,623.87/- (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Six hundred Twenty Three and Eighty Seven Paise only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs 40,80,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Eighty Thousand only)**	**Rs. 4,08,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eight Thousand only)**
3	**1. Sri. Basavaraj M Yaragal** S/o Sri Mallikarjun N Yaragal, **2. Sri. M Mallikarjun N Yaragal** S/o Late Neelakantappa, Since deceased. **Represented by his Legal representatives; a) Smt. Sumithra M Yaragal** W/o Late Mallikarjun N Yaragal, All are residing at No. 107, Neelaganga Nilaya, Raju Layout, near St. Peters School, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru – 560 056. **b) Sri Neelakantappa N Yaragal** S/o Late Mallikarjun N Yaragal, No. 107, Neelaganga Nilaya, Raju Layout, near St. Peters School, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru – 560 056. **c) Sri. Basavaraj M Yaragal** S/o Sri Mallikarjun N Yaragal, No. 107, Neelaganga Nilaya, Raju Layout, near St. Peters School, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru – 560 056.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 107, Panchayath Khata No. 150, Asst. No. 41/1 & 44/2, CMC Katha No. 3481, BBMP Kata No. 1583/3481/150/41/107, situated at Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore , measuring East to West: 60 + 45/2 Feet, North to South 60 Feet, together with building standing thereon, bounded on the: East by: Property bearing No. 106 & 106A, West by: 50 Feet Road, North by : Property bearing No. 105; and South by: Property bearing No. 107/A.	**Rs. 1,84,67,376.95/- (Rupees One Crores Eighty Four Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six and Ninety Five Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 1,89,39,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Nine Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 18,93,900/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred only)**
4	**1. Mr.Dyavappa** S/o. Munivenkatappa, Flat C, Ground floor, Prakruthi Royal Apartments, 13th Main Lakshmaiah Block, Ganga Nagar, Bangalore-560032. **2. Mrs.Indira Priyadarshini** W/o. Mr.Dyavappa, Flat C, Ground floor, Prakruthi Royal Apartments, 13th Main Lakshmaiah Block, Ganga Nagar, Bangalore-560032.	**SCHEDULE "A"**: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing presently bears common Present BBMP Katha No.24/Sy.No.44/1, Converted Sy.No.44/1, measuring 5 ½ guntas, (Converted Vide Conversion certificate bearing No.ALN(E)SR (Kr.HO):125/2012-13 dated 15.01.2013, Issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist., Bangalore), land in Converted Sy.No.44/1, measuring 14 Guntas, (Converted Vide Conversion certificate bearing No.ALN(E)SR(Kr.HO):124/2012-13 dated 15.01.2013, Issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist., Bangalore) , both the lands together totally measures 19½ Guntas, and situated at Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on the East by: Road and Private Property; West by: Land in Sy.No.44/1; North by: Road and Private Property; South by: Land in Sy.No.39; **SCHEDULE "B"**: 285 Sq.feet undivided right , title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. **SCHEDULE "C"**: Flat being No.114, in the Ground Floor, in measuring about 1022 Sq.feet super built up area, containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring together with One covered car parking space and including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried building known as "SLV PARADISE" constructed over schedule "A" Property.	**Rs.68,61,636.30/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six and Thirty Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 36,55,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand only)**	**Rs. 3,65,500 /- (Rupees Three Lakhs Sixty five Thousand and Five Hundred only)**
5	**Mr. Inteti Jagadish** S/o Sriramulu Inteti, H.No. 2, Khatha No. 255, 5th Cross, Gayathri Layout, Devasandra, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore -560036. **Mrs. I Kavitha** W/o Inteti Jagadish, H.No. 2, Khatha No. 255, 5th Cross, Gayathri Layout, Devasandra, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore -560036.	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.42, Property No.37, Katha No. 295, Old Katha No. 37/42, Situated at Sonnathammanahalli, Thambuchettypalya, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore measuring East to West: 15 Feet and North to South : 35 Feet, measuring in all 525 Sq.Ft and bounded on the East by : Site No. 48, West by : Remaining portion of Site No. 42, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 41.	**Rs. 43,28,333.33/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three and Thirty Three Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 35,70,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Seventy Thousand only)**	**Rs. 3,57,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand only)**
6	**1. Sri Kuppanna S Rathod** S/o Sita Ram, Flat No.001, Ground Floor, "Ashirvad" House List No. 260/102/52, 16th Cross Street, Neeladrinagar, Doddathouguru Bengaluru - 560 100. **Also at,** Sri Kuppanna S Rathod S/o Sita Ram, Sasargaon Tanda Post Rumangud – 585324, Chincholi Tq, Gulbarga Dist. **2. Smt. Archana** W/o Kuppanna S Rathod, Flat No.001, Ground Floor, "Ashirvad", House List No. 260/102/52, 16th Cross Street, Neeladrinagar, Doddathouguru, Bengaluru - 560 100, **Also at,** Smt. Archanda W/o Kuppanna S Rathod, E/247, Rajapura (Jagat), Rajapur, Gulbarga -585105.	**Schedule-A:** All that piece and parcel of Site bearing H L No. 260/102/52, Katha No. 5704/102/52, situated at Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 80 Feet admeasuring 4800 Square feet, and bounded on the old Sy.No. 102 (New Sy.No. 102/2); East by : Remaining portion of the same site ,retained by Thavamani Gangadhar Pillai, West by : 80 feet road, North by : property no. 53; South by : Road. **Schedule B** : 246 Sq.Ft of undivided share, right title and interest out of A schedule property and the residential apartment bearing no. 001 in Ground Floor, 2BHK having super built up area of 1115 Sq.ft and with one covered car parking space in the stilt floor, including proportionate share in common areas such as lobbies , passages, lifts, staircase and contained in the apartment building known as " AASHIRVAD" constructed out of solid concrete block and main door having Teak Wood and other doors frames with Sal wood frames inside flush doors and aluminum windows and having vitrified flooring having separate electricity and common water and sanitization including all common rights etc., East by : Open to sky, West by : Corridor and Flat No. 004, North by : Open to sky, South by: Flat No. 002.	**Rs. 40,29,274.39 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four and Thirty Nine Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 35,64,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Only)**	**Rs.3,56,400/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred only)**
7	**Mr. Sreekanta N** (Since deceased representing by his Legal Heir **Mrs. B S Shantha and any other Legal heirs**), **Mrs. B S Shantha** W/o Late Sreekanta N, No. 541, 2nd Main, 50 Feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, 1st Block, Srinagar, Bengaluru -560 050	**Schedule A** : All that piece and parcel of property bearing site no. 464 and 465 , Khatha No. 230/462, Carved out of Sy. No. 230, situated at Kithaganauru Village, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring East to West 120 Sq.Feet and North to South 80 Feet, I all measuring 9600 Sq.ft and bounded on: East by: Site No. 463, West by : Site No. 466, North by : Road, South by : Private Property. **Schedule B**: 256 Sq. Ft of undivided share, title and interest in the Schedule "A" property **Schedule C**: All that piece and parcel of the Flat bearing no. 104, on the First Floor, the apartment building known as "SHALOM VIJAY RESIDENCY" constructed of RCC Roofing with vitrified flooring having super built up area of 1203 Sq.Ft with One Covered car parking space.	**Rs. 48,79,801.99 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred one and Ninety Nine Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 43,61,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Sixty One Thousand only)**	**Rs. 4,36,100/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred Only)**
8	**Mr. Narasimhalu J S,** No. 1509, 3rd Cross, Srinivas Nagar, Bangalore -560072.	All that piece and parcel of South west portion of corner site bearing New Khatha No. 2169/1, having Old Katha No. 65, Old Survey No. 29/9, re-survey no. 55, situated at Giddadhakonenahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore, owned by Sri Narasimhalu J S, measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South 30ft totally measuring 600 Sq.ft and bounded on : East : Remaining South – East portion of Schedule B Property, West : Road, North : Remaining North -West portion of Schedule B Property, South : BDA Road.	**Rs. 28,72,510.35/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Ten and Thirty Five Paise only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 52,28,000/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand only)**	**Rs. 5,22,800/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Eight Hundred only)**
9	**1. Mrs. Shital Tugave,** #181 (House No. 3), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Agara Village & Post, Sarjapura, Bangalore -560102. **Also at:** Mrs. Shital Tugave, 1/43, Tupusultan Chowk, Aurad, Bidar – 585 326. **2. Mr. Dileep Kumar,** #181 (House No. 3), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Agara Village & Post, Sarjapura, Bangalore - 560102. **Also at:** Mr. Dileep Kumar, 1/43, Tupusultan Chowk, Aurad, Bidar – 585 326.	**Schedule A**: **Item No.1**: All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing no.1, formed by central excise house building Co-Operative Society Ltd. In its Layout in Kammanahalli Village Layout , Begur Hobli, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru South Taluk, now within the limits of BBMP and bearing BBMP Katha No. 245/456/1, BBMP Ward No.192, measuring East to West:80 Feet and North to South (50.6 +48)/2 Feet and in all measuring 3940 Sq.Ft and bounded on: East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No. 2, South by : Private Property. **Item No. 2**: All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing no.2, formed out of converted lands bearing Sy.No. 126/1,126/2,126/3,126/3-1,127,128/2,3 and 4 and 131/3 in all measuring 11 acres 24 guntas in the residential layout as Central Excise House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd., measuring East to West : 80Feet and North to South :53 Feet and in all measuring 4240 Sq.Ft and bearing BBMP Katha No. 15/457/2, BBMP Ward No.192, situated at Kammanahalli Village, Bannerghatta Road, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No. 3, South by : Site no. 1. And now Katha of the item No.2 of the property is clubbed with the item No.1 of the property by BBMP and bearing amalgamated single Khatha No. 15/457/2/456/1 to both the properties. **Schedule " B " Property : (Mortgaged Property):** Registered equitable mortgage of 3.02 % of undivided share right, title and interest out of the larger property equilent of 247 Sq.Ft and 2 bed room apartment bearing no. 205 in the Second floor and having super builtup area of 958 Sq.ft and consisting of one hall, kitchen, Two bed rooms, one car parking in the stilt floor in the apartment building known as " SHREYAS ROYAL ARCADE) constructed out of the larger property. East by : Corridor & Flat No. 202, West by : Open to sky, North by : Flat No. 206, South by : Flat No. 204.	**Rs. 41,48,591.75 (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and Seventy five Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 32,40,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand only)**	**Rs.3,24,000 /- (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Only)**
10	**1)Mr. Vijay K G** S/o Govindaraju, Flat No. 009, "A" Block, Ground Floor, "SIGMA SERENITY" Sy.No. 223, Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Bengaluru. **Also at:** Mr. Vijay K G S/o Govindaraju, No. 207, B Block, First Floor, Legend Park View Apartment, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore -560098. **Also at:** Mr. Vijay K G S/o Govindaraju, K.P Doddi Village and Post, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk-571511. **2) Mrs. Meghavathi A** W/o Vijay K G, Flat No. 009, "A" Block, Ground Floor, "SIGMA SERENITY", Sy.No. 223, Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Bengaluru. **Also at**: Mrs. Meghavathi A W/o Vijay K G, No. 207, B Block, First Floor, Legend Park View Apartment, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore -560098. **Also at:** Mrs. Meghavathi A W/o Vijay K G, K.P Doddi Village and Post, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk-571511.	**Schedule A** : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing New Sy.No.223 (Old Sy.No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 acres situated at Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the: East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West : Sy.No. 173, North by : Sy.No. 180& 181, South by : Sai Layout. **Schedule B** : 372 Sq.Ft of Undivided share, Right, title and Interest in the Schedule A property. **Schedule C** : A Two Bed Room apartment bearing No. A-009, A Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Gramapanchayath E-Katha No. 150200100200320561, Flat No. 248/A-009 on the Ground Floor of the Building known as "SIGMA SERENITY" constructed in the schedule A property having super built up area of 1007 Sq.Ft (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in common areas and a share in the club house area) together with one covered car parking space in the basement.	**Rs. 45,19,125.09 (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Ninteen Thousand one hundred Twenty five and Nine Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 35,07,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Seven Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 3,50,700/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred only)**
11	**1.Mr. Anantha Rao Jadhav L** S/o Mr. Lakshman Rao Jadhav, No.303, Anugraha Meadows, 4th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangaloare-560 024. **2. Mrs. Surekha Bai** W/o Anantha Rao Jadhav L, No.303, Anugraha Meadows, 4th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangaloare-560 024.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.19 (Nineteen), Khatha No.4-5-6/19, comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, formed out of Converted Survey Nos.4,5,6, vide Official Memorandum No. ALN (NA) SR-265/2002-03 dated 10.07.2006, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at Singapura Village, Presently known as Varadarajaswamy Layout, 2nd Phase, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 95-0 Feet, North to South:40-0 Feet, totally measuring 3800 Sq.Ft and bounded on the East by: Airforce Compound, West by: Road, North by: Site No.18, South by: Site No.20.	**Rs. 1,30,19,793.89 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three and Eighty Nine Paisa only) as on 31/01/2023**	**Rs. 1,24,74,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand only)**	**Rs. 12,47,400/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred only)**
12	**1. Mr. Babu Kumaran,** No. 14,"Devi Nivas", 11th Cross, Sigadi Layout, Kanshiramnagar, Off M S Palya, Hesaraghatta Road, Somashettihalli, Bangalore- 560097. **2.Mrs. Sridevi S** W/o Babu Kumaran, No.14, "Devi Nivas", 11th Cross, Sigadi Layout, Kanshiramanagar, Off M S Palya Hesaraghatta Road, Somashettihalli, Bangalore- 560097. **3.M/s Parvathi Engineering,** Prop. Mr. Babu Kumaran, No. 167, 5th Avenue, Vishveswaraiah Enclave, K.G.Halli, Jalahalli West, Bangalore -560015. **4. M/s Devika Tool Manufacturing Technologies,** Prop. Ms. Sridevi S, Muni Kempamma Bldg, Muniswamappa Layout, WIMAC Junction, Abbigere Main Road, Bangalore -560015.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 14 of Katha No. 142, Layout formed in Converted Survey No. 70, an Extent of 1 Acre 20 Guntas, situated at LAKSHMIPURA VILLAGE, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West :40 Ft, North to South : 30 Feet, totally 1200 Sq. Ft, above Land converted vide official Memorandum bearing No. A.L.N/(N.Y)S.R/36/09-10, dtd 01.10.2009, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, bounded on the : East by : Site No. 15, West by : Road, North by : Site no. 13, South by: Road.	**Rs. 55,69,563.70 (Rupees Fifty-Five Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Five hundred Sixty Three and Seventy Paisa only) as on 31.03.2023**	**Rs. 60,35,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand only)**	**Rs. 6,03,500/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Three Thousand Five Hundred only)**
13	**M/s Kaveri Enterpirses,** Represented by its proprietor, P N Shashikala, Registered office at : No. 1496, Site No. 268, 1st Floor, Canara Bank Building, Begur, Bangalore-560 068. **2. P.N Shashikala** W/o N V Nanda Kishore, Residing at No. 37/2, Appayyanna Lane, Near Lalbagh Main Gate, Doddamavalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560004. **3. Mr. N V Nanda Kishore** S/o Late M. S Venkatesh, Residing at No. 37/2, Appayyanna Lane, Near Lalbagh Main Gate, Doddamavalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560004. **Also at : Mr. N V Nanda Kishore,** S/o Late M. S Venkatesh, Flat No. G-01, Keerthi Laasya, 3rd Main Road, Sarakki , JP Nagar Ist Phase, Bangalore – 560078.	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing residential vacant site. 213, Old Khatha No. 627, New BBMP Khatha No. 2616/602/627/113/213, Converted Sy.No.113, (duly converted by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide Conversion Order No. B.Dis.ALN.SR(S)135/1981-82, Dated 21.08.1981), situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits, measuring East to West Northern Side 60 Feet, Southern Side 90 Feet and North to South 60 Feet , totally measuring 4500 sq.ft., together with all rights appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on :- East by : Private Property, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 214, South by : Site No. 212.	**Rs. 1,14,66,026.01 (Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Twenty Six and One Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023**	**Rs. 1,41,75,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 14,17,500/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Only)**

The above said properties will be sold by "Online". Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website **www.mstcecommerce.com** on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders / purchasers required to register through **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp** by using their mobile number and valid email:id. They are further required to upload KYC documents and Bank Details. The intended bidder may contact the **Branch Manager of Union Bank of India. Asset Recovery Branch, Contact No. 8369255990, 9611045818** for inspection of property and also visit the above mentioned website for ascertaining the details of auction.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER Rule 8(6) Rule 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

This may also be treated as notice u/s 8(6) Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers and Guarantors of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 06.04.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

₹37,631 cr have been pulled out from Indian equities by foreign portfolio investors amid aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally.

Revisit investments as rate cycle nears point of reversal

Investors can relook at their strategy as investment in debt schemes of MFs, gold and bank FDs could get steady returns for the long run

SACHIN KUMAR @Mumbai

WHEN the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to leave the repo rate unchanged last week, economists and analysts took it as a signal of a longer pause. This unexpected pause, which came after six back-to-back repo rate hikes in 11 months, shows the interest rate cycle has reached close to its turning point, they believe. While the market agrees there will be no more hike in near future, the pause has also triggered discussions about the possibility of rate cut this year.

As the interest rate cycle is expected to turn, the rate movement will have an impact on different assets and investors should relook at their investment strategy regarding mutual funds, fixed deposits and gold.

Debt funds turn attractive

The decision by the RBI to not hike rate this time created euphoria in the bond market, but the governor doused the excitement by clarifying that the pause was for just one meeting only and it might raise rates if inflation goes beyond its target.

However, the bond market is taking it as a long pause with no more hikes expected this year. As the prices are likely to cool down going forward, investors can invest in debt schemes of mutual funds to get inflation-beating returns.

"When interest rates trend lower, bond prices move up. For a given fall in interest rates, the longer the maturity or duration of bonds, the greater the increase in the price of bonds. The street estimates that both GDP and CPI inflation could be lower than RBI estimates, which will create room for interest rates to go down," Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund told TNIE.

"Investors in debt funds, especially those with longer maturities, could gain as they would benefit from capital gains generated by bonds held in the scheme over and above the interest income. Debt funds are looking attractive as they could generate handsome inflation-beating returns for the investors," said Bagla.

Experts expect the bond yield to decline further in the current quarter and expect 10-year bond yields, which are currently hovering around 7.21% to trade in the 7.00-7.25% range. Instead of putting all the funds in single funds, investors should spread investments in multiple funds with different maturities.

"We need to keep in mind that this is currently a pause in rates and not a pivot or reversal of interest rates. Investors will therefore need to continue to run a strategy that uses a combination of short-term maturities and longer-term debt so that the strategy is well balanced," Vishal Dhawan, Vice Chairman, Association of Registered Investment Advisors told this newspaper.

Bank fixed deposits

With no further repo rate hikes expected this year, experts believe that the interest rates offered on the banks' fixed deposits (FDs) are close to their peak. Driven by 250 bps rate hikes by the RBI since May 2022, banks have raised interest on FDs.

"Fixed deposits continue to be an attractive option and a mix of FDs maturing at different times is suggested to mitigate reinvestment risk and create a ladder of maturities," said Dhawan.

Small finance banks are aggressive in attracting depositors and are offering higher interest on FDs compared to private and public sector banks. Banks are offering up to 7.50% interest on deposits with maturity of 1 year while 3-year deposits are luring depositors with interest of up to 8.10%. The interest on 5-year deposits is hovering in the 6.7% to 7.75% range.

"Though bank FDs are passive, partly illiquid, staid savings products, investors are advised to allocate some portion of their savings to bank FDs as well for mental comfort and steadiness in returns. Investors could ladder their bank FDs from 1-5 year maturities," said Bagla.

Gold continues to glitter

The investment appeal of gold remains intact as the global economy moves from one crisis to another and policymakers try to figure out the intensity of recession, which is feared to hit Western economies in the coming months.

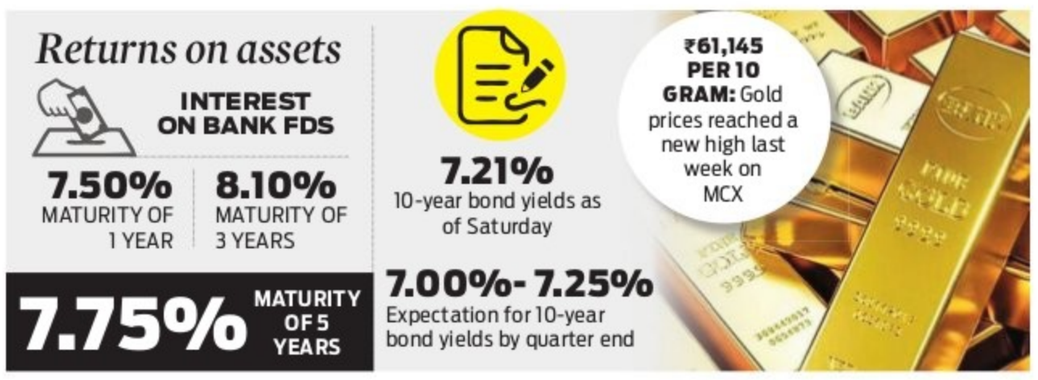
"We believe that gold should be a part of the asset allocation given the volatility we see around us in capital markets. At some point in time, we will see the interest rate cycle turn and central banks may cut rates at which point the dollar may lose its sheen which is positive for gold as an asset class," Sameer Kaul, MD and CEO, TrustPlutus Wealth- a wealth advisory firm with Assets Under Management of around ₹ 11,500 crore- told this newspaper.

Experts believe that there is still some steam left in the rally of gold prices, which touched an all time high recently. Gold prices reached a new high of ₹61,145 per 10 gram last week on MCX.

"Gold prices are continuously rising for the last month and prices have successfully sustained above major psychological resistance of $2000 (around ₹60,000 per 10 gm). The environment is still bullish and is expected to take prices 20% higher from current levels towards $2400 (around ₹70,000 per 10 gram) for gold in FY 2023-24," Renisha Chainani, Head - Research, Augmont- Gold For All- a gold trading and research platform, told TNIE.

"For a recession-proof portfolio, one should allocate at least 20% of the portfolio to gold and silver. The best way to stay invested in these precious metals in a new financial year is to invest 50% in lumpsum at current prices and divide the rest 50% through Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) every month," she added.

Instead of buying physical gold, investors can also explore other ways to invest in gold such as Exchange Traded Funds and gold bonds issued by the government.


Returns on assets
INTEREST ON BANK FDS
7.50% MATURITY OF 1 YEAR
8.10% MATURITY OF 3 YEARS
7.75% MATURITY OF 5 YEARS
7.21% 10-year bond yields as of Saturday
7.00%- 7.25% Expectation for 10-year bond yields by quarter end
₹61,145 PER 10 GRAM: Gold prices reached a new high last week on MCX

MONEY MATTERS

WHY YOU SHOULD BE HOPEFUL ABOUT GROWTH

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

OSCAR Wilde, the famous Irish poet and playwright, got it right. He said a cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing. There is a lot of cynicism in the financial markets. Global inflation is stubbornly high, and uncertainty over global supply chains continues due to the war in Europe and the US-China trade relations.

Jamie Dimon, the chairman and CEO of JP Morgan, a giant global bank, was quoted saying that the odds of a recession in the US have increased due to the banking crisis. That means America could see stagflation, low or no growth and high inflation. That will hurt all significant trading partners of the United States like Europe, China, India and others.

In an interconnected world, India cannot stay insulated for long. Many pundits argue that equity assets in other parts of the world are much cheaper than those in India. Foreign investors will likely continue to pull more money from India and invest in markets that offer value.

From your standpoint, this is a time to ramp up your financial knowledge. This column advocates giving more time to your money by learning to connect the dots. Institutional forecasts indeed predict a gloomy picture for most countries. However, you must look around yourself and learn from the data that tells you a growth story.

The latest World Bank estimate lowers India's economic growth projection to 6.3% in 2023-24. In its latest forecast, the Reserve Bank of India pegs it at 6.5%. The global institution blames rising borrowing costs, slower income growth and lower-than-estimated consumption. The RBI pins hope on the government's capital expenditure, higher capacity utilisation and moderating commodity prices to boost manufacturing and investment activities.

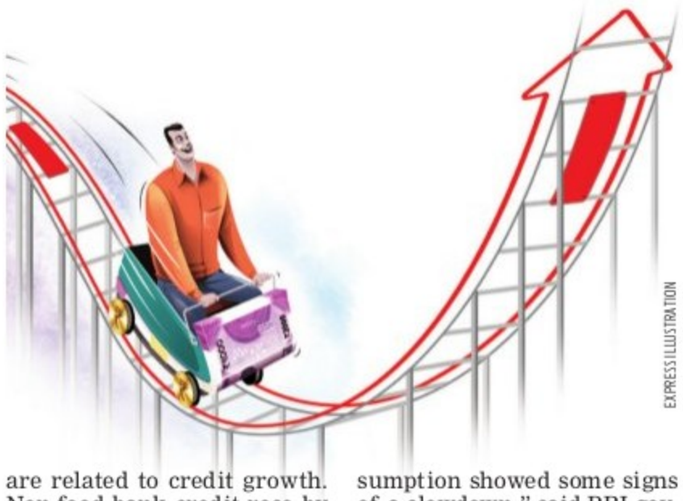
India's 10-year bond yields, a benchmark for financial stability, have hovered around the 7% mark for some time now. The Indian rupee has remained stable despite volatility in other currencies against the US dollar. There is no fear of a sharp surge in the current account deficit in the short term, according to the latest observations by the RBI.

The other essential indicators are related to credit growth. Non-food bank credit rose by 15.4% in March 2023. The total flow of resources to the commercial sector rose by Rs 26 lakh crore in 2022-23. That number was Rs 19 lakh crore in the year-ago period. The other important observation was by CRISIL, the credit rating agency. The ratio of credit ratings upgrades to downgrades fell sharply to 2.19 in the second half of 2022-23 from 5.5 in the first half of the financial year. However, it is still higher than the 10-year average. "Corporate balance sheets have strengthened significantly, observes the rating agency. The average gearing for most companies tracked by CRISIL is near decadal lows. Gearing is the ratio of debt to equity. That shows companies can expand if the demand for goods and services rises in India.

That brings us to the India growth story.

"The aggregate demand conditions were resilient in Q4 of 2022-23, even as private consumption showed some signs of a slowdown," said RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in his monetary policy observations. Urban demand indicators like passenger vehicle sales and credit card spending registered robust growth in February. Rural demand indicators such as consumer non-durables, tractor and two-wheeler sales registered healthy growth.

As you connect the dots, you realise that internal factors drive India's growth story. The external factors in the form of a global slowdown threaten it. From your standpoint, investing in the sectors that drive India's domestic growth story is the way forward for the foreseeable future. You do not have to know the intricacies of every sector. It is sufficient to understand that as India's economy grows steadily, companies will continue to ride on it. Investing in the India story is a bit like nurturing a tree. The fruits of your labour would accrue only when you give it sufficient time to grow.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Ramp up your financial knowledge

Internal factors drive India's growth story. The external factors in the form of a global slowdown threaten it. From your standpoint, investing in the sectors that drive India's domestic growth story is the way forward for the foreseeable future.

MONEY-WISE

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE MARKET FALL

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

ARE we in a bubble?

Is the market too high?

Is the market going to fall? Will interest rates go up further?

Sadly, I do not have a reply to any of these questions.

However, I do think these questions are wrong.

What you need to know is that markets have their ups and downs...we need to be prepared for a 5% fall once every month, a 10% fall once in a year and a 30% fall once in 5 years and a 40% fall once in a decade. Maybe this is an exaggeration, but being prepared for a fall is the most sensible thing to do.

What can you do now to be prepared for a fall in the markets....

- If you have a surplus, pay off the Home Loan first! Interest rates are near the peak, if not the peak. If you can pay off 20% of the home loan, it should take care of the extra interest that you are going to pay over the next few years.
- Diversify your assets –it is always better to have a portfolio which has Indian equities, corporate debt, gold, international equities and gilt. Multi Asset funds fit this nicely, and reduce the risk of equity doing badly and gold doing well.
- Remember that nobody can predict the direction of the market, and how long it will remain down.
- Remember that sitting tight during tough times is one of the best ways to get a good return. Having spare cash for investing when the market is low is very difficult – but extremely rewarding. Learn to be patient.
- When markets are weak some of your past mistakes show up very harshly on your portfolio. Use this as an opportune time to sell the losers and invest more in shares (or mutual funds) that are doing well.
- Get a good advisor – ask around and you will find a lot of fingers pointing to the right resources. Talk to him/her and take your own time to finalize who should be your advisor.
- Sometimes the market could behave very abnormally – it could go up when you keep hearing bad news! This is because a lot of the information that you see is after a few insiders have already acted on that new information. It was new only for you!
- Pray well – it always helps in whatever activity that you take up, especially if you start investing.

Attending Bhajan sessions, going for a walk, running, swimming, training in say boxing – are all great ways to beat the market – getting prepared is surely a good goal to achieve first.

IBC a happy hunting ground for Adani

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

ADANI Group has used the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to good use to acquire stressed assets and consolidate its position in sectors like power and ports — two key areas of operations for the group.

Adanis have made three big ticket acquisitions — where the realisation for lenders have been more than ₹1,000 crore — through the corporate insolvency resolution process. The group has also acquired a few firms where the realisation was below ₹1,000 crore.

Earlier this week, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd said it completed the acquisition of Karaikal Port Private Limited. This was the first big acquisition by the Gautam Adani-promoted group after the Hindenburg Research report published on January 24, 2023. Before KPPL, Adani Power was the successful resolution applicant of two other big firms – Essar Power MP and Korba West Power Company. Adani Group, in all three big IBC proceedings, paid only a fraction of the amount claimed or admitted by the creditors.

As per the resolution plan, Adani Ports paid ₹1,583 crore for the Karaikal Port of which ₹1,485 crore will be infused as an upfront payment to financial creditors. The admitted claims for KPPL were ₹2,997 crore. In the acquisition of Korba West Power plant, Adanis paid ₹1,100 crore to financial creditors, who had together admitted claims of ₹3,346 crore. The unsecured lenders, for the first time, were provided 100% of their ₹1,685 crore claim under the approved plan.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE

OS No. 3883 / 2022 (CCH No. 23)

BETWEEN : RABIYA FAHEEM SYED D/o. Mr. Rafi Ahmed Syed, aged about 37 years, Residing at No. A121, "Vajram Essenza", Thanisandra Main Road, Next to Shobha City, Bengaluru - 560 064. ...PLAINTIFF

AND: 1. K. CHANDRAPPA S/o Late Ramaiah Age about 69 years,

2. R. VENKATESH S/o rate Rumman, Age about 55years.

3. R. MANJUNATH, S/o Late Ramaiah Age about 53 years,

4. RATHNAMMA W/o Late Sampangi Age 54 about years, All are defendant No. 1 to 4 are residing at K.Narayanapura Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560077. ...DEFENDANTS

SUIT SUMMONS AND NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 TO 4 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

1. K. CHANDRAPPA S/o Late Ramaiah Age about 69 years, **2. R. VENKATESH** S/o rate Rumman, Age about 55 years, **3. R. MANJUNATH,** S/o Late Ramaiah Age about 53 years, **4. RATHNAMMA** W/o Late Sampangi Age 54 about years, All are defendant No. 1 to 4 are residing at K.Narayanapura Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru -560077.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff have instituted the above Permanent Injunction against you in the above case, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through an Advocate / Pleader **on 05.06.2023 at 11.00 am** to answer the same inspite of this summons and notice, if you fail to appear on that day. the above suit / application will disposed of exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No.2, House List No.762 formed in converted Sy.No.5, Converted vide order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(SA)139/2001-02, dated: 03/09/2001, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, BBMP Sl. No. 1204, situated at K.Narayanapura Village K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 35 feet, in all measuring 1400 sq.ft. and bounded by

EAST : Site No.1, **WEST :** Site No. 3, **NORTH :** Road, **SOUTH :** Private Property.

Given under my hand and the seal of court this 05.04.2023.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
MOHAMMED AYUB ALI, Advocate
BHANDARI ASSOCIATES
No. 144, 6th Cross, K.E.B Layout, Sanjayangar, Bangalore-560094.

MANIPAL HOUSING FINANCE SYNDICATE LIMITED

'Manipal House' Manipal Udupi Tq and Dist, Karnataka 576 104. Ph: (0820) 2570741

POSSESSION NOTICE [under rule -8(1)] (for Immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of the **Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Act 2002 (Act. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **16.12.2022** calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount mentioned there in **with 60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and public in general that **the under signed has taken possession of the property described herein below** in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said ordinance read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **06th day of April of the year 2023.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of sec. 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate Limited** for an amount mentioned herein below and interest thereon.

S.No.1: Borrower: Mr.K.S.Prasad and Mrs.K.Aruna; Amount Claimed as per Demand Notice *Subsequent interest till date is also due: Rs.35,59,942/- (Rupees Thirty Five lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Two Only) and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Southern Portion of the site bearing No.6, S.No.24 measuring East to West 58 feet and North to South on the East 16 Feet and on the West 17 feet **totally measuring 957 sq.feet** situated in **Kalena Agrahara Gottigere Village Group Panchayath Begur Hobli Bengaluru South Tq,** now coming within the limits of Kalena Agrahara of BBMP and bounded by East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Remaining portion of the vendor site No. 5 and South: Site No. 7 belonging to the purchaser.

S.No.2: Borrower: Mr.K.S.Prasad and Mrs.K.Aruna; Amount Claimed as per Demand Notice *Subsequent interest till date is also due: Rs.96,09,133/- (Rupees Ninety Six lakhs Nine Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Three Only) and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.7, formed in S.No.24, Ward No. 192 (Begur) measuring East to West 58 ft and North to South: 36 feet **all measuring 2088 sq.ft situated at Kalena Agrahara Village, Arakere Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Tq now coming under the purview of BBMP** and bounded by East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Site No. 6 and South: Site No.8.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 06.04.2023

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFCIER
For MANIPAL HOUSING FINANCE SYNDICATE LTD
'MANIPAL HOUSE', MANIPAL – 576 104

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALGHAT DIVISION

E- TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/10/2023 dated 05.04.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/Palakkad invites E- TENDERS for the following works.

Name of work and details: 1) Redevelopment of Kasargod Railway Station of Palakkad Division under Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs) -1377.07, Bid Security Amount Rs. 8,38,500/-Completion Period In Months- Eight.

2) Redevelopment of Tirur Railway Station of Palakkad Division under Amrit Bharat station Scheme. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-1210.88 Bid Security Amount Rs.7,55,500/-, Completion Period in Months-Eight..

3) Redevelopment of Payyanur Railway Station of Palakkad Division under Amrit Bharat station Scheme. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-1716.33, Bid Security Amount Rs.10,08,200/-; Completion Period in Months- Eight.

Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3 : Tender closing date on 27.04.2023 at 15hrs.

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.

2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.

For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site "http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken to account while submitting Tender.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

QuoteExpress **IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE** › NELSON MANDELA

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE

OS No. 3846 / 2022 (CCH No. 23)

BETWEEN : LAKSHMI PRASAD .Y, S/o Sathya Narayana P.Y., Aged about 50 years, Residing at: No. 1044, 25th Cross, 1st Phase, MCECHS Layout, Shivaramkaranth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077. ...PLAINTIFF

AND: R. CHANDRAPPA & Ors ...DEFENDANTS

SUIT SUMMONS AND NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 TO 4 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

1. K. CHANDRAPPA S/o Late Ramaiah, Age about 69 years, **2. R. VENKATESH** S/o Late Ramaiah, Age about 55 years, **3. R. MANJUNATH,** S/o Late Ramaiah, Age about 53 years, **4. RATHNAMMA** W/o Late Sampangi, Age 54 about years,

All are Defendant No. 1 to 4 are residing at K.Narayanapura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru -560077. ...DEFENDANTS

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff have instituted the above Permanent Injunction against you in the above case, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through an Advocate / Pleader **on 05.06.2023 at 11.00 am** to answer the same inspite of this summons and notice, if you fail to appear on that day. the above suit / application will disposed of exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No.1, House List No.761, BBMP S No. 1203 formed in converted Sy.No.5, Converted vide order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (SA)139/2001-02, dated: 03/09/2001, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, BBMP Sl.No. 1204, situated at K.Narayanapura Village K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 35 feet, in all measuring 1400 sq.ft. and bounded by

EAST : Road, **WEST :** Site No. 2, **NORTH :** Road, **SOUTH :** Private Property.

Given under my hand and the seal of court this 05.04.2023.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
MOHAMMED AYUB ALI, Advocate
BHANDARI ASSOCIATES
No. 144, 6th Cross, K.E.B Layout, Sanjayangar, Bangalore-560094.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mrs. STELLA MARY C.F,** residing at No.10/11, Muniswamappa Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, Next to Magala Chandra Gowri Apartments, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560032, **Mrs. NAGEA SADIA,** Residing at No.1-1, 4th Cross Link Road. Madivala New Extension, Opp. Madivala Post Office, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560 068 and **Mr. JAGADISH KUMAR PATEL,** residing at Brindavan, No.206, 4th 'A' Main, 6th Cross,BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560 076.

If any person/s have/has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the supporting documents, within 10 days from the date of this Notice.

The Objections or claims received after expiry of the stipulated time will not be binding on our client and our will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the converted lands bearing (1) Survey No.34/1, measuring 0-8.985 Guntas, (2) Survey No.34/2, measuring 0-0.113 Guntas and Survey No.34/3, measuring 0-12.902 Guntas, in all measuring 0-22 Guntas, situated at Chagalatti Village, Jala Hobli, Bagalur, Bangalore North Taluk, duly converted for Non-agricultural Residential purposes vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(Jala.Bagalur)S.R/07/2014-15, Dated 22.04.2016 and bounded as follows that is to say:

East by : Private Lands in Survey No.33/1, **West by :** Bangalore to Bagalur Road, **North by :** Lands in Survey Nos.34/1, 34/2 & 34/3, of Chagalatti Village, Jala Hobli, Bagalur, Bangalore North Taluk, **South by :** Remaining lands in Survey No.34/1, & 34/3 of Chagalatti Village, Jala Hobli, Bagalur, Bangalore North Taluk.

Unnikrishnan. M & Associates
Advocates
No. 46, 1st 'A' Cross, AECS Layout Road, Near ISRO, RMV II Stage, Bangalore - 560 094.

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Woods withdraws from Masters with injury

Five-time winner Tiger Woods, who limped through an awful, bogey-strewn start to his rain-halted third round of the Masters, pulled out of the tournament with a foot injury organizers said on Sunday. It is the second time in the past year that Woods has been forced to withdraw from a major championship citing injury.

'Women wrestlers' statements against WFI chief should be made public'

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

MORE than a couple of months after leading a historic protest against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Olympic and World Championships medallist Bajrang Punia came out in open and raised questions over the investigation being carried out to probe charges including sexual harassment against Singh.

The multiple Worlds medallist spoke to this daily and alleged that attempts are being made to give clean chit to the embattled WFI chief and prove the women wrestlers, who made accusations against him, wrong. "A news report recently claimed that one of the members of the oversight committee, which was constituted by the sports ministry to probe the allegations, was not in agreement with its final report. It indicates something suspicious is being done either by the committee or the ministry. Someone is doing something wrong," the 2020 Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang told this daily.

The sports ministry constituted the committee which was headed by the legendary woman boxer MC Mary Kom. Former wrestler Babita Phogat was added as the sixth member of the committee after wrestlers raised objections to its constitution. Besides, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) also formed a committee to probe the allegations after the wrestlers wrote a letter to its head, PT Usha. The oversight committee was initially given four weeks to complete the probe and submit its report, which was later extended by two weeks. "The news report said that statements given by wrestlers are being manipulated. It means that attempts are being made to give clean chit to Singh and prove the grapplers, who protested against him, were lying," Bajrang added.

Bajrang Punia

Showing his apprehensions over the investigation, the 29-year-old wrestler from Haryana demanded to make the statements given by the women wrestlers public. "Through your newspaper, I wanted to tell the people of this country that the statements given by the women wrestlers against the WFI chief should be made public so that they also know the truth. The whole process was videographed. These videos should be run on news channels. These statements should be made public to decide whether he (Singh) was guilty or not. I don't know who wants to save him, who all are supporting him. We had faith in the government that it would give justice to us. However, the way things are going on, we don't feel like the government will support us or go with the truth," he said. He was alsao not happy with the recent developments wherein the federation has resumed its day-to-day functioning. "The WFI has resumed its activities even as the report of the committee has not been made public. We don't know whether the committee has submitted its report or not. We don't have any information on it yet," Bajrang signed off.

One silver and two bronze on Day one

The opening day turned out to be a good outing for Indian wrestlers at the Asian Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan as they won three medals including a silver and two bronze. Competitions were held in five weight categories of the Greco-Roman style on Day 1 with India's Rupin winning 55kg silver. He won the qualification beating local wrestler Sardarbek Konushaev 16-7. He went on to win the quarterfinal and semifinal as well before losing the final 3-1 to Iran's rival Poya Soulat Dad Marz. Neeraj (63kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg) won a bronze each in their respective weight categories. Sajan (77kg) and Naveen (130kg) were the other Indian wrestlers who competed on Sunday.

RINKU ROARS AND REST IS HISTORY

25-year-old southpaw from KKR smashes unbeaten 48 off 21 to steal victory from the jaws of defeat against GT

GOMESH S @Chennai

YOUR team needs 39 runs from eight balls. You are the only recognised batter in the middle with a bowler. The fate of your team depends on what you do over the next eight balls. It is the kind of situation where no one, not even your teammates would have any hopes for a victory. You doing it on the field would be stuff of dreams. Dreams where you will be the hero who saved the day, where your teammates and coach would run on to the field to lift you above everyone else to celebrate.

If you are an ardent fan of the sport growing up, you would have found yourselves thinking about such situations while going to bed, or daydreaming during a boring mathematics class in school. And quite often you would pull it off and revel in glory. There is a reason why these are the situations you dream about. For it can only happen in your head and not in reality.

Ask Rinku Singh of Kolkata Knight Riders. Last year against Lucknow Super Giants, his team needed 38 from 12 balls. Rinku dared to dream. He wanted it to become reality. He would smash 40 runs of 15 balls, but in the end, it would not enough. It was a heartbreak for Rinku and KKR as they fell short by two runs.

On Sunday, Rinku once again found himself in a similar situation in Ahmedabad. This time against Gujarat Titans. Their team had been cruising towards the target of 205 with Venkatesh Iyer leading the way (83 off 40). Then Rashid Khan happened. The Titans' skipper for the day would take a hat-trick, leaving GT at 157/7, needing 48 runs from 18 balls. It would then become 39 off eight and Rinku was in the middle, batting on eight from 14 balls. Could he dream of doing it again? Will he able to endure yet another heartbreak should he fail? Even if he believed, no one else did. Not Iyer who was in the dug out with his teammates. They'd all but given up.

However, Rinku doesn't give up. He doesn't know how to. That has been the story of his life. Right from the early days when he refused the job of a sweeper in a coaching centre to believing that cricket would take him places, Rinku has always believed. He has always dreamt bigger and given his everything for it. That self belief is what brought him this far. And Sunday was his moment to seize the improbable. To do the unimaginable.

The penultimate ball of the 19th over. Josh Little sends a slower one outside off-stump and Rinku launches it over the ropes. Next ball, a short of length delivery and he muscles it to deep-midwicket boundary. 29 needed off six. Still the odds aren't great and Umesh Yadav was on strike. He does the smart thing and manages to get a single. Rinku was back on strike again, with 28 required off five. All the deliveries left in the Yash Dayal over should be sent over the ropes. Rinku basically would have to do one better than what Carlos Brathwaite did to win the 2016 T20 World Cup for West Indies.

First of the five balls — a full toss and Rinku lofts it over wide long off for a six. Second, another low full toss, this time on the legs, and he sends over square leg. Iyer and his teammates are now looking upon Rinku with hopes. This seems possible now. Third ball, another full toss and same result on the off-side. Fourth, short and wide, Rinku clobbers it over long-on. Four off one ball. This is as close to reality as it can get. The last ball, almost a repeat of the previous one, Rinku smacks it over Dayal's head into the stands.

He had done it. Rinku had pulled off a heist. His teammates are running in towards him with captain Nitish Rana in the front. They cannot get enough of Rinku. Their coach Chandrakant Pandit — someone who often goes 'winning a match is not it, let's win the trophy and then celebrate' — is in the middle, hugging Rinku, letting out his emotions. This is exactly the kind of situation you would play in your dreams when you were a kid. Except this time, Rinku had made it a reality. He did so because he believed. Because he dared to dream.

Brief scores: GT 204/4 in 20 ovs (Vijay Shankar 63, Sai Sudharsan 53) **lost to** KKR 207/7 in 20 ovs (Iyer 83, Rinku 48 n.o; Rashid 3/37)

KKR coach Chandrakant Pandit hugs Rinku Singh as other players rejoice their win | SPORTZPICS

SINGH IS KING

- KKR needed 39 runs off the last eight balls
- Rinku launched six sixes and a four in the last seven balls he faced to pull off a miraculous win for his side

How the last eight balls of KKR's innings played out...

6 4 1 6 6 6 6 6

Arsenal held by Liverpool in blow to PL title bid

AFP @London

ARSENAL blew a two-goal lead in a pulsating 2-2 draw at Liverpool on Sunday to give Manchester City fresh hope of retaining the Premier League title. Mikel Arteta's men edged six points ahead of City at the top of the table, but the defending champions have a game in hand and host the Gunners in a potential title decider later this month. Goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus appeared to have Arsenal cruising towards an eighth consecutive league win. But Mohamed Salah pulled a goal back before half-time to spark a Liverpool fightback.

Salah missed a second-half penalty before Roberto Firmino headed in the equaliser three minutes from time. Jurgen Klopp's men then missed a series of chances to complete the comeback as Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale salvaged a point for his side. But the match will also live long in the memory for a remarkable incident just after the half-time whistle when assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis thrust an elbow into the face of Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson.

Palace boost survival bid

LEEDS: Crystal Palace boosted their bid for survival with a 5-1 demolition of relegation rivals Leeds. Palace erased Patrick Bamford's first half opener with a superb display of counter-attack. Marc Guehi equalised just before the break and Palace turned on the style after half-time with emphatic finishes from Jordan Ayew, Eberechi Eze and Odsonne Edouard.

Valverde "punches" Baena?

MADRID: Real Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde punched Villarreal's Alex Baena in the face after the champions' 3-2 defeat in La Liga on Saturday night, according to media reports. Baena complained on Twitter on Sunday about being "attacked" and denied he had insulted Valverde's family, which some reports cite as the reason for the Uruguayan's anger.

Tripathi's blitz takes Hyderabad home

AGENCIES @Hyderabad

SKIPPER Shikhar Dhawan stood tall among the ruins with a 66-ball unbeaten 99 that lifted Punjab Kings to 143 for nine against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

However, it was not enough as Rahul Tripathi's unbeaten 48-ball 74 guided the home side to victory in 17.1 overs with eight wickets in hand. The Maharashtra batter, with his captain Aiden Markram for company, smashed ten fours and three sixes in his enterprising knock.

Earlier, Mayank Markande did the star turn with figures of 4 for 15 to leave Punjab Kings reeling at 88 for nine in the 15th over. Dhawan hit 12 fours and five sixes. Even as Punjab Kings lost wickets at regular intervals, Dhawan showed his teammates how to do it with his incredible knock. Asked to bat first, Punjab Kings endured a disastrous start as they lost Prabhsimran Singh in the very first ball of the match, trapped in front of the wicket by veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Brief scores: PBKS 143/9 in 20 ovs (Dhawan 99 n.o; Markande 4/15) **lost to** SRH 145/2 in 17.1 ovs (Tripathi 74 n.o, Markram 37 n.o).

BANGALORE SEEK TURNAROUND VS LSG

Returning to their home ground, RCB will be hoping to get back to winning ways against LSG on Monday. A look...

SIRAJ VS MAYERS

Mohammed Siraj has a good record against left-handers, especially in the shortest format. While Kyle Mayers has a good record against pace, he will be challenged by Siraj with the new ball at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

KOHLI VS BISHNOI

Virat Kohli is in red hot form, again. He has not done much wrong in this season, but will be up against Ravi Bishnoi and Krunal Pandya when RCB face LSG on Monday. Him coming good in the contest will be crucial for the home team.

LOCAL STAR RAHUL

For KL Rahul, playing at the M Chinnaswamy is bread and butter. It was here he grew up and has played for the city's franchise in the past as well. The right-hand batter averages 38.22 and strikes at 141.56 at the venue. In his homecoming, the LSG skipper would want to put on a show.

RCB vs LSG, 7.30 PM, Bengaluru | Live on Star Sports and Jio Cinema

Orleans Masters: Shuttler Priyanshu clinches maiden World Tour crown

AGENCIES @Orleans

INDIA'S Priyanshu Rajawat capped off an impressive week with a thrilling win in the final against Denmark's Magnus Johannesen to claim the men's singles title at the Orleans Masters here on Sunday.

The Madhya Pradesh shuttler, who was part of the Indian team that registered an epic win at the 2022 Thomas Cup, saw off World No 49 Johannesen 21-15, 19-21, 21-16 in a 68-minute summit clash to grab the biggest title of his career.

"I am very happy with my performance this week. It is my first big title and I'm extremely happy to win this," World No 58 Rajawat, who is likely to get into top 40 after this win, said.

The two shuttlers, making it to the final after coming through the qualifiers, dished out some superb badminton, but the Indian rode on his ability to produce winners to secure the World Tour Super 300 crown.

It was the first meeting between the two 21-year-olds, both looking for a breakthrough win but Rajawat, who didn't drop a game in the $240,000 tournament, showed his maturity as he dished out a controlled aggressive game to come up trumps.

The image of an airborne Rajawat unleashing a forehand cross court jump smash to trouble his opponent will be etched in the mind of the spectators, as he accumulated multiple points with this trademark shot.

A year ago, Rajawat had returned early from Orleans when it was a super 100 event, but the tournament was upgraded to super 300 from this year, and the Indian made the most of the opportunity.

Rajawat, who had a runner-up finish at Odisha Open in 2022, won the BAI trials to make it to the Thomas Cup team. He then won the Raipur International Challenge and finished second at Bangladesh Open in December.

Priyanshu Rajawat

Jabeur in 2nd straight Charleston Open final

AP @Charleston

SECOND-SEEDED Ons Jabeur advanced to the Charleston Open final for the second straight year, beating No. 3 seed Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 7-5 in a rain-delayed match.

Jabeur, who lost this championship a year ago to Belinda Bencic, will have to wait until Sunday to find out her opponent. The second semifinal match between No. 1 seed Jessica Pegula and the fourth-seeded Bencic was suspended because of rain. Bencic was ahead a set, yet trailing Pegula 4-2 in a second-set tiebreaker.

The two will conclude their match, weather permitting, and after suitable rest, the final will be played.

Jabeur fought off Kasatkina to win her 10th semifinal in her 12 visits to the final four. Jabeur of Tunisia also won her fifth straight over her Russian opponent and first since the two played in the Rome semifinals a season ago.

Jabeur had quipped Friday she'd try and get her supporters in Tunisia to send sunshine to the Credit One Tennis Center. Instead, it was an overcast, chilly with rain delays that had the match ending more than 5 1-2 hours after it began.

Jabeur trailed 5-3 in the opening set when the rain delayed the match. She returned after the delay of more than three hours to win the next four games to take the set.

Jabeur turned it up again at the end of the final set, surging from a 5-all tie to put away Kasatkina and reach her first final of the year.

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Asset Recovery Branch
2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru -560 002.
Contact No: 8369255990, 9611045818
E-mail : ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India (secured Creditor)** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Name and address of the Secured Creditor :Asset Recovery Branch, # 2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru-560002.

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (1) Mr.Kiran Mehta S/o Sanjay Mehta, Residing at Flat No.101, 1st Floor," D" Block, B M Magnolia Park, Hagadur Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560037. Also at: F-3/330, Sangam Vihar, Delhi-110062. **(2) Mrs. Opinder Deep Singh** W/o Kiran Mehta, Residing at Flat No.101,I st Floor," D" Block, B M Magnolia Park, Hagadur Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560037. Also at : F-3/330, Sangam Vihar, Delhi-110062.

Amount due: Rs. 77,59,418.99 (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred eighteen and Ninety nine Paisa only) as on 31/03/2023.

Primary: Security Description : Schedule A Property: Converted Survey Nos 30/2,30/6,42/2,42/8,42/1, 43, 42/3 and 42/4, BBMP Katha No.1054/46, totally measuring 4 Acres 28 ¾ guntas situated at Hagadur Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore east taluk, now coming under the limits of BBMP bounded on: East by : Remaining land in Sy No 42/8 and 43 and Road, West By : Land in Sy No.19 and 30/1 and remaining land in 30/6, North By : Nagondanahally Village boundary and remaining land Sy No.42/1 and South by : Land in Sy N. 30/3,30/7,42/4 and remaining land in Sy No.42/6 and 42/7.

Schedule B : 366.15 Sqft of undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule A above.

Schedule-C : All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing Flat No 101,located on First Floor, Unit -1 CEDAR, measuring 1245 Sqft super built up area, containing Two Bed Rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Flooring, along with one covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passage, lobbies, staircase, etc in the multi-storied residential building known as B M Magnolia Park, constructed on scheduled A property.

Reserve Price : Rs. 58,34,000.00
(Rupees Fifty eight Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 5,83,400.00
(Rupees Five Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Four Hundred only)
(10% of Reserve Price)
Date and time of E-Auction: 11.05.2023 , 11.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M.
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction,
E-auction website: www.mstcecommerce.com

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in
(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://www.mstcecommerce.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to eauctionhelpdesk@unionbankofindia.bank or contact Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, #2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru – 560002 & Mail Id: ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank and also the Branch Manager Mr.Gopal T for ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of property, Contact No.8369255990, 9611045818

Date: 06.04.2023 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Union Bank of India.**

JEE Main Session II examination is ongoing and questions regarding the result and its declaration, counselling, JEE Advanced and more are looming large. Here is the lowdown

THE MAIN MANIA

The JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) Main Session II exam is underway. With complaints about the early announcement of Session I in January, there is immense pressure on many to do well in this session. Experts understand students' concerns as well, pointing out that the modified exam pattern this year makes it tougher to crack. Nonetheless, they share some tried and tested tips to aid the aspirants

ABHIPSA MOHANTY

The experts say that the best way to tackle the question paper is to solve the easy and known question first. They state that since solving all the questions within the given three hours is tough, dividing the exam time into rounds is advisable. "In the first round, solve questions that are known. Next, go for questions that are known but are lengthy," says Yasasvi Santosh, Director, Spark Academy.

"Students need to solve 9-10 questions of Physics and Chemistry each, in the order of their comfort. Then they can solve four to five Math problems. About 30 questions with correct answers will be solved awarding about 120 marks. Then they can go for the lengthy questions in the same order," adds MN Rao, a JEE coach with 32 years of experience.

"In the third round, students can take up subjects of their liking or try solving the difficult questions," says Santosh. "In the end, the total marks matter. That should be kept in mind and they should not stress over how many questions from what subject they are able to solve," PK Padhi, Professor at Odisha University of Technology and Research states.

Handling unknown questions

Whether one should guess answers to unknown questions or not is debatable. On one hand, Santosh opines that only calculated guesses should be made when one is confused between two options.

On the other hand, Rao suggests that students who are not able to solve more than 25-30 questions, can make guesses.

Nonetheless, all the experts caution students about incurring more negative marks or being stuck on questions. "This year, negative marking was introduced for numerical questions as well. This requires students to be more careful before marking their responses," concludes Santosh.

Tech glitch? Do not be alarmed

"If any technical glitches occur, do not panic and let the concerned person handle the situation," says Rohit Kumar, Chief Academic Officer, PhysicsWallah. If persistent glitches occur, Padhi suggests contacting the authorities at the NTA after the examination.

JEE Advanced or not?

"JEE Advanced is mostly meant for admissions to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). If one is passionate about going to an IIT, they have to appear for this exam," says Padhi. "Evaluate your performance and decide whether you should write JEE Advanced or not," advises Kumar, adding that in case one decides in favour, "Keep practicing for JEE Advanced and do not relax after the Main exam."

Choosing a college and course

To choose a suitable college, students have to follow a three-step procedure, opines Santosh. "First, they have to focus on their personal preferences and identify where their likings lie. Next, they have to research the top colleges available. For this, they can take the help of their teachers, parents, seniors and relatives.

Lastly, they have to look at current trends—which courses are the most sought after in the job market. We are undergoing a recession, thus, it is very important to plan for the future," he says.

At the same time, Padhi cautions students against falling for the marketing gimmicks which several private players employ. "Students who are from rural backgrounds and not acquainted with computer-based application processes, are more at risk.

Agents from private universities speak tall about their infrastructure and the opportunities available. They convince students and parents to enroll in their institutions, but doing so is not at all advisable," he explains.

Skipping a year

Experts state that this is an individual choice. Those students who fail to obtain a seat as per their liking, have to consider the situation, discuss it with their parents and others, and then take a call. "If you feel that you have not performed up to your potential and have the confidence to work hard and improve, then you should attempt it again next year. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses and make a plan to improve your weaknesses," Kumar says.

Singhal opines that dropping a year is not a bad idea. "If a student feels that he/she has not obtained a suitable, they can definitely consider staying back a year. In the end, their degree will mention the name of the college they get into, and not the fact that they dropped a year or two. So, if the student thinks he/she should take a drop, it can be considered, even if parents are against it," he says. "However, the age factor has to be considered," Padhi says.

Other factors one should consider before taking a decision are the institute's infrastructure and ranking. "It has been seen that students reject seats in the new NITs. But they are catching up fairly well and their newness should not be criteria for rejection," Santosh says.

If you don't crack the exam, it's not the end of the world

It is not the end. "There is a difference between an exam and a competition. JEE Main should be looked at as a competition. If qualified, that's great. But if not, then it's alright. Unlike for a board exam, if students are unable to crack JEE, it will not be mentioned anywhere. They have lost nothing and need to plan ahead," says Singhal.

Apart from appearing for other entrance exams, students who do not obtain a seat through JoSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority) can look for colleges that admit students based on JEE Main rank. "There are state-funded and private institutes which have a good rank and which students can choose," says Rao. "The financial background is to be considered here," he added.

MOST CHOSEN COURSES

Here's the experts' list

Computer-based courses: Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and other related courses

Electronics Engineering

Automobile Engineering

Exam basics

JEE Main is an entrance exam meant for admission to UG Engineering, Architecture and Planning courses at 23 IITs, 31 NITs, IIEST Shibpur, 26 IIITs and 33 Other-Government Funded Technical Institutes

The exam is split into two—Paper 1: Engineering (BE/B Tech). Paper II is divided into two parts. Paper 2A is for Architecture (B Arch) and Paper 2B is for Planning (B Plan)

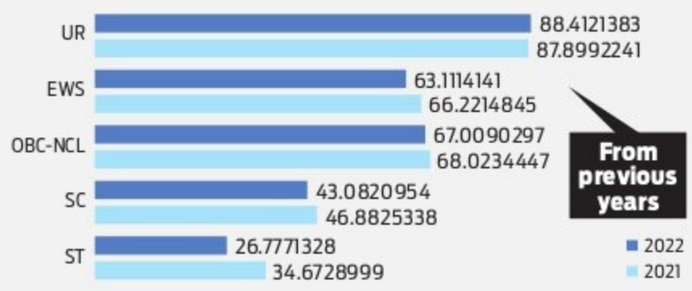
Exam paper pattern

B Tech
90 questions (60 MCQs + 30 numericals, including optionals)
Marks - 300
Duration: 2 shifts of 3 hours each

B Arch
82 questions (20 MCQs + 10 numericals, including optionals + 50 aptitude questions + 2 drawing questions)
Marks - 400
Duration: 2 shifts of 3 hours each

B Plan
105 questions (20 MCQs + 10 numericals, including optionals + 50 aptitude questions + 25 drawing questions)
Marks - 400
Duration: 1 shift of 3 hours

CATEGORY-WISE CUT-OFFS



TOP IITs: NIRF RANKING 2022

Engineering	
IIT Madras	Rank 1
IIT Delhi	Rank 2
IIT Bombay	Rank 3
IIT Kanpur	Rank 4
IIT Kharagpur	Rank 5
Architecture Only 2 IITs offer this course	
IIT Roorkee	Rank 1
IIT Kharagpur	Rank 3

TOP NITs: NIRF RANKING 2022

Engineering	
NIT Tiruchirappalli	Rank 8
NIT Karnataka, Surathkal	Rank 10
NIT Rourkela	Rank 15
NIT Warangal	Rank21
NIT Calicut	Rank 31
Architecture	
NIT Calicut	Rank 2
NIT Tiruchirappalli	Rank 5
Visvesvaraya NIT, Nagpur	Rank 8
Maulana Azad NIT, Bhopal	Rank 20
NIT, Hamirpur	Rank 26

LIST OF OTHER TOP INSTITUTIONS BASED ON NIRF RANKING 2022

Engineering	
Jadavpur University	Rank 11
Vellore Institute of Technology	Rank 12
Anna University	Rank 17
Institute of Chemical Technology	Rank 18
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Rank 19
Architecture	
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi	Rank 4
Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur	Rank 6
School of Planning & Architecture, Vijayawada	Rank 7
Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	Rank 8
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	Rank 9

VOX POP

'COURSE' OF ACTION

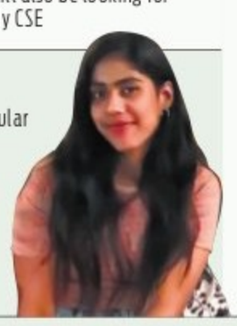
JEE Main aspirants list their preferred courses and where they would like to pursue it

PRANSHU SHALEEN, Bihar

I am not eligible for IITs, as the situation stands. So, though I am appearing for JEE, I am also appearing for other entrance exams. I have applied to Delhi Technological University (DTU) and COMED-K (Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka) exam. At the state level, I am appearing for WBJEE (West Bengal Joint Entrance Exam) and will also be looking for admission to local colleges. I want to study CSE

MUPPA SATHVIKA, Telangana

My first preference will be IITs. I am not rooting for any particular IIT, but I would list IIT Bombay as my first choice. If I cannot make it to an IIT, I would opt for an NIT. And if I cannot make it there as well, there are many top-ranking institutes in various states which admit students on the basis of JEE Main ranks. I will opt for one of them. My preferred course is CSE, because many placements are offered for the course and it is trending as well



VISHWA RANJAN SAHU, Odisha

Everyone wants to get into top IITs and so do I. My first preference is IIT Bombay, as it is the oldest and the best. It has a good faculty, placement records, research opportunities and has also published several research papers. The alumni network is also very strong. And I would like to go for CSE or other computer-based courses like Data Analytics and Data Science, as they have a broad scope and a bright future

SHIVAM KUMAR, Uttar Pradesh

I am not sure about my college or course. I am not eligible for IITs because of the 75 per cent eligibility criteria. So, I would like to take admission to an NIT, preferably NIT Warangal, Trichy or Surat, which rank at the top. But this is also doubtful because I am not confident about my scores. For the course, I would prefer CSE and my second preference would be Electrical and Electronics

AYAN ASHRAF
Bihar

I am aiming for an IIT and if I have to choose, I will choose IIT Guwahati. My preferred course would be Mechanical Engineering. It is not purely out of interest or because it is one of the popular courses, I want to go for this course because many members in my family have a background in Mechanical Engineering. So, I will be assured of guidance and a job

ROHIT DUBEY, Madhya Pradesh

Every student aspires to bag admission to the top institutes. But I am only eligible for NITs, having dropped out the second time. So, I will be happy if I can get admission to an NIT with a good rank. NIT Raipur or NIT Bhopal will suit me very well, as they are located nearby. I would prefer to opt for CSE because of the placement trends I have noted

DEEPAK SHIRSAT
Maharashtra

At first, I was confused between NEET and JEE. But I was inspired by the movie *3 Idiots* and chose JEE. I scored 98 percentile In Session I. If I have to choose according to my JEE Main scores, I will prefer NIT Nagpur. I am preparing for JEE Advanced as well, and if I do well, I will choose a top-ranking IIT. My preferences are IIT Bombay, Kharagpur and Delhi. I would perhaps like to go for CSE

ARJUNAN MR, Kerala

Actually, I have not decided on the institute as of now. But an IIT will surely be my first preference. Though which IIT, in particular, I am not sure of at the moment. I would like to choose CSE as my course, not because it is trending, but because Computer Science is my passion

FAQ

Here are the answers

All Frequently Asked Questions answered by educationists who are experts in the field of JEE

How can one ace the exam? By taking at least two to three mock tests, experts point out. The exam is conducted online for all papers, except a part of Paper 2A (Drawing), which is pen-and-paper-based. There ought to be many other questions you might be seeking answers to. Here's all you need to know...

Q. Who can appear for JEE Main?
A. Only those candidates who have passed the Class XII/equivalent examination in 2021, 2022 or those who are appearing in Class XII/equivalent examination in 2023, are eligible to appear in JEE Main 2023.

The candidates must have Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as subjects in Class XII/Equivalent exam. Candidates applying for Planning must have Mathematics as a compulsory subject.

There is no age limit. But candidates can attempt the exam consecutively for three years.

Candidates must have obtained at least 75 per cent in the board exam or be placed in the top 20 ranks for state board exam.

Q. Can the student appear for JEE Main if he/she is a diploma holder?
A. Yes. Though they are advised to sharpen their knowledge of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry before appearing for the test.

Q. In which languages can students attempt the JEE Main exam?
A. JEE Main exam is conducted in 13 languages—English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Q. What are the exam day do's and don'ts?
A. **Do's:**

- Follow the instructions on the admit card.
- Reach the examination centre at least two hours prior to the allotted time
- Carry only the permitted items (admit card, passport-size photo, authorised ID proof, PwD certificate, if required).
- When the exam begins, verify that the question paper assigned is of the same topic and language as selected for and mentioned in the admit card.

Don'ts:

- Do not carry items such as baggage, stationery, snacks, drinks, gadgets and jewellery.
- Diabetic candidates can carry a water bottle, medicines and fruits, but not packaged food items like chocolate or sandwiches.
- Do not change seats during the exam. Changing seats without information will lead to the cancellation of the candidature.
- Do not indulge in malpractice. Spreading of false information and participation in multiple slots will cancel the candidature.

Q. When are the Session II results expected?
A. As per the previous years' trends, the answer key is expected to release four days after the exam. Next, the objection window will open for students to challenge the answer key and then the final answer key will be released. It is only after this that the results will be out. The results can be expected towards the end of April.

Q. What happens if one has attempted both Sessions I and II as well?
A. The best of the two scores will be considered for the final result.

Q. Who can appear for JEE Advanced?
A. Anyone who qualifies JEE Main can appear for JEE Advanced. About 20 per cent of the total number of examinees qualify each year.

Q. What does one need to keep in mind before appearing for counselling?
A. Look up the ranking of the colleges and previous years' counseling dates.

Q. What should one do after securing a seat?
A. After securing a seat, students must choose their preferred engineering branch, considering factors such as personal interests, job prospects and in which field they want to advance in the future.

Q. Who should one contact in case of queries?
A. The National Testing Agency (NTA) is the one the concerned person should reach out to.
Phone number: 011-69227700, 011-40759000
Email ID: jeemain.nta.nic.in

Q. What if one has appeared for both Papers I and II? What should one choose — Engineering or Architecture?
A. If confused, choose Engineering, say experts. One can switch back to Architecture after completion of Engineering, but the vice-versa is difficult.

Q. If not JEE Main, what other entrance tests can one appear for?
A. One can consider state-level entrance tests like MHT-CET, KCET, EAMCET and many more. They can also apply to private engineering colleges through exams like BITSAT, VITEEE, and SRMJEEE.

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10.04.2023
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Film release

12 Angry Men, an American classic courtroom film drama was released in 1957, marking the feature-film directorial debut of Sidney Lumet

ADAPTATION

The film was adapted from a 1954 television play that aired on the series *Studio One*. It centres on the deliberations of 12 jurors serving on a murder case

AWARDS

It won the Writer's Guild of America Award for Best Film and top awards from the British Film Academy, the Italian and Polish Film Critics Associations and the Berlin Film Festival

REMAKE

In 1991, Japan's Argo Project, Inc. released a comic reworking of the film, *Juninin no Yasashii Nihonjin*, or 'Twelve Gentle Japanese'

Check out the events in the city

PG 2

From acts like the flying trapeze to the aerial ring and rolla bolla, circus artistes are pushing limits to keep alive the age-old art as B'lureans will witness at the Rambo Circus shows taking place till April 23

TAMASHA TIME

STENI SIMON

IT'S been a tightrope walk for circus artistes who have been significantly hit by the pandemic. But now, they are back in action, and how! Through this month, the St. John's Auditorium in Koramangala will be action-packed with a medley of performances by artistes of the popular Rambo Circus.On Saturday, which happened to be 'World Circus Day', Rambo Circus made its debut here.

From death-defying acts like the flying trapeze to the aerial ring, the show also features acts like hand-to-hand, slinky, bubble act, bouncing ball, laser, and rolla bolla, among many others. Around 40 artistes from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, and India are performing in the great Indian circus festival taking place in the city till April 23.

"Be it a child or an adult, everybody likes to see a circus which is a non-stop entertainment of stunts and tricks. It was a difficult time for us during the pandemic when everything came to a halt. When many of our fellow circuses were forced to shut down, it was the trust of people that made us search for innovative ways to reach our viewers. Online circus shows and special shows for school students via social media held high the spirits of our artistes," says Sujit Dilip, the proprietor of Rambo Circus.

Watching Kamila Khametova, an aerial ring acrobat artiste from Uzbekistan, doing acts is breathtaking. The 35-year-old, who is visiting India for the third time, has been involved in the art for the last 20 years. "I have mostly been doing acts like balancing steel rods. However, for this festival, I am doing aerial ring acrobats which I learnt in just a month and a half. This act is my favourite because I get to do it on my own," says Khametova when we catch her at the rehearsals. India is a memorable place for Khametova who remembers her first show with Gemini Circus many decades ago in Kerala. "I started performing in my childhood as I was always fascinated by the profession. Working in the circus has helped me explore different countries as well. I practice for over three to four hours at a stretch every day," Khametova says.

Along with the foreign artistes, Indian artistes too are putting up their mind-blowing performances. Kolkata-based Pinky Khan's performance on a cycle is a jaw-dropping act, to say the least. "My parents were also in the circus so I always wanted to follow suit. I do cycle and hula hoop tricks. The audience is quite energetic in Bengaluru and we are looking forward to more shows here," says 34-year-old Khan, who, admittedly, is quite nervous to perform with Russian artistes.

Christina Sangma, a native of Assam is an expert in candle contortion, and juggles myriad candles at a time by twisting her body. She says, "Being a circus artiste is quite difficult. You need to be fit and flexible. You need to be very active every moment. Meal times can vary due to continuous shows."

(The show will be held every day till April 23 at 1.30 pm, 4.30 pm, and 7.30 pm. For tickets, priced at ₹500, visit bookmyshow.com)

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

I started performing in my childhood as I was always fascinated by the profession. Working in the circus has helped me explore different countries as well. I practice for over three to four hours at a stretch every day

– Kamila Khametova, aerial ring acrobat artiste

Avin Thaliath (@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Malgudi Mylari Mane **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Vawksa rep 2) Momo ase 3) Chakhwi

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Radha M
2) Surya B
3) Alkha S

CITY READ

Seminar on Bank Branch Audit programme

On Thursday, a one-day seminar on the Bank Branch Audit programme was held for CA Students at the Institute Of Chartered Accountants Of India(ICAI) Bhawan, Vasanthanagar. The Bengaluru Branch of Southern India Regional Council (SIRC) arranged the seminar. The one-day seminar was inaugurated by the Bengaluru Branch of SIRC of ICAI chairperson CA Divya S, chief guest CA Manohar P Gupta, SICASA chairman Tuppad V Muppanna, secretary CA Manjunath M Hallur, speaker CA S Ananda Krishna and Southern India Chartered Accountants Students Association (SICASA) Committee members.

Run held for water conservation

Over 1,000 participants took part in IPA Neerathon 2023, a water awareness festival run, which was flagged off on April 9, from the St. Joseph's Indian High School grounds. The first three winners in the men's and women's categories in different age groups were felicitated while every participant was awarded an e-certificate and a medal of appreciation.

University scores Diamond Band A+ grade in Green Ranking 2023

CMR University was awarded a Diamond Band A+ Grade in the Sustainable Institutions of India Green Ranking 2023. This award recognises CMR University's commitment to sustainability and green practices, and highlights the university's efforts to make a positive impact on the environment. "We are honoured to receive this recognition for our sustainability efforts. At CMR University, we believe that it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment and to create a sustainable future for generations to come," said Dr HB Raghavendra, vice-chancellor, CMR University. The Sustainable Institutions of India (SII) Green Ranking 2023 is an annual assessment of the sustainability practices of higher education institutions. The ranking evaluates universities on a range of factors.

WEAVING HISTORY

Supermodel Lakshmi Menon's saree with Armoor silk designs at the launch of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, was a creation by a city-based boutique

MONIKA MONALISA

THE launch of Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre was a celebration of the rich heirloom handlooms of India. Even the guests became a part of the celebrations as they showcased the rich culture through their couture. Karnataka made its presence felt with supermodel Lakshmi Menon wearing a heritage silk saree made by city-based boutique Vimor.

Menon donned a light pink and golden bordered saree with Armoor silk designs, draped in a Kodava style. She paired it with shoulder-duster earrings by Vishal Kothari of Vak Jewels and a signature heritage ruby-studded brochure which was originally a hair accessory she inherited from her great-grandmother. **Pavithra Muddaya**, founder of Vimor, a handloom heritage brand, was pleasantly surprised when she saw the saree. "My daughter recognised it. Lakshmi has been a long-time customer. So immediately when we texted her, she wrote back saying 'Of course, it's from you'," says Muddaya.

Muddaya recalls the saree being weaved years ago. "We don't have an Armoor saree in stock. We have revived this silk twice. It has its origin in Telangana. These sarees usually have golden borders and have fish designs in the pallu," explains Muddaya.

The saree, which is a recreation of an heirloom piece, has an interesting backstory. "It is from an old textile that we had in our collection that I had picked up in Hyderabad during a visit. I realised there was a lot of Andhra influence on the design. I then checked with textile historian Jasleen Dhamija who passed away recently. After confirming the details on the textile, we went ahead with production. So the saree was woven by a weaver in Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu but the design is of Armoor silk," says Muddaya.

Lakshmi Menon with Rekha

ORIGINAL STORY

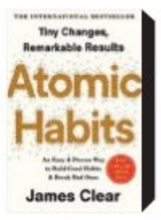
Armoor silk comes from the region of Navanthapuram, now called Armoor, which is nestled among nine mountains in Telangana. One of the fastest-growing towns, it is known for weaving beautiful silk designs. Known for their extra-weft techniques, zari border, and pallu, these sarees are woven using the interlocking technique (known as 'kuttu' in Telugu) in order to bring contrasting colours to their borders. The motifs of the saree range from bird's-eye, pitambaralu and, a vine-and-leaf-patterned border. The sarees are supposedly woven by a large settlement of warriors originally from Rajasthan, called the Khatris. Their dialect is a potpourri of Gujarati, Rajasthani and Marathi, with a dash of Telugu.

INSIDE

BURNING DOWN POWER IN PYRE

P3

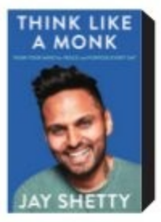
BOOK NOOK



Atomic Habits

By James Clear

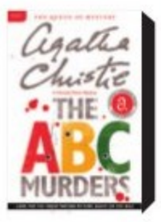
Atomic Habits is the go-to manual for changing poor habits and forming good ones in four simple steps. It demonstrates how little, incremental daily routines add up to significant, positive change over time.



Think Like a Monk: Train Your Mind for Peace and Purpose Every Day

By Jay Shetty

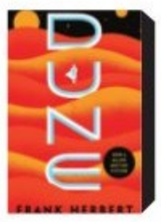
Combining ancient wisdom and his own rich experiences in the ashram, Think Like a Monk reveals how to overcome negative thoughts and habits, and access the calm and purpose that lie within all of us.



The A.B.C Murders

By Agatha Christie

The A.B.C. Murders is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, featuring her characters Hercule Poirot, Arthur Hastings and Chief Inspector Japp, as they battle with a succession of deaths by a mysterious murderer known only as "A.B.C."

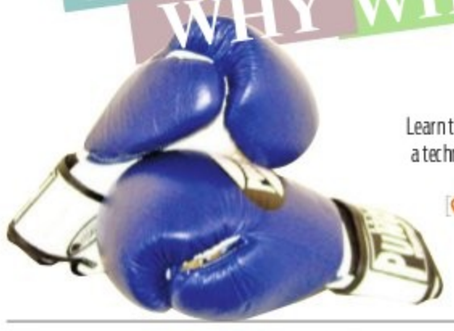


Dune

By Frank Herbert

While the planet is an inhospitable and sparsely populated desert wasteland, planet Arrakis is the only source of melange, or "spice", a drug that extends life and enhances mental abilities.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



Boxing Tactics

Learn the basics of boxing at Striking Fit, which is a technical boxing class to learn real the skill in a step-by-step process.

WHERE: Fit Max Pro gym, BTM Layout
WHEN: April 11, 5pm
DETAILS: meetup.com

Music to the ears

British jazz band The Cinematic Orchestra will perform as part of Echoes of Earth's three-city performance tour in India. The tour's first leg will start in Bengaluru.

WHERE: Jayamahal Palace
WHEN: April 14
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Science Fun

Tiny Tots is a five-day activity-based science workshop for school students that includes simple science demonstrations and model making.

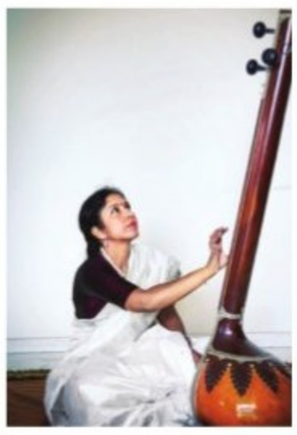
WHERE: Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Sampangi Rama Nagar
WHEN: April 11,10.30am
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Artists' Corner

Check out NIRMITI, the 6th annual art exhibition curated by Kalathaana Art Foundation, where upcoming artists showcase their skills and upgrade their knowledge. **WHERE:** Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram **WHEN:** April 12, 11am **DETAILS:** allevents.in

Monday Blues

Dance all night to Punjabi and Bollywood music played by DJ Hassan. Free drinks are available for ladies. **WHERE:** Just BLR, Ashok Nagar
WHEN: April 10, 8pm
DETAILS: highape.com

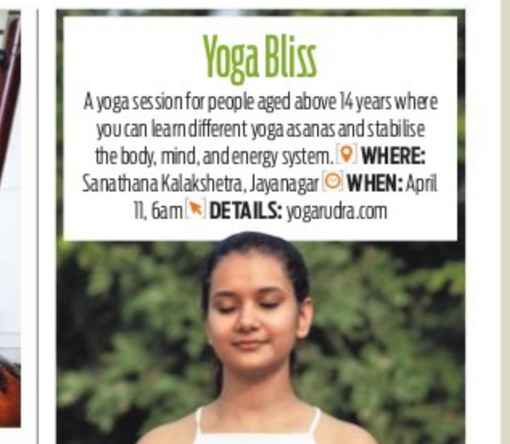


Spiritual Music

Music of the Charkha is a Hindustani classical musical session, where the words of philosophers such as Tulsidas, Basavanna, with verses from the Mundaka Upanishad, Kabir Das, and Baba Bulleh Shah will be recited. **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur **WHEN:** April 11, pm **DETAILS:** bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Yoga Bliss

A yoga session for people aged above 14 years where you can learn different yoga asanas and stabilise the body, mind, and energy system. **WHERE:** Sanathana Kalakshetra, Jayanagar **WHEN:** April 11, 6am **DETAILS:** yogarudra.com



ALL THAT GLITTERS

Actors Aditi Prabhudeva(left) and Roopika during the inauguration of a jewellery showroom | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICK FIX

COCONUT BARFI

INGREDIENTS

- **Grated coconut:** 3 cups
- **Heavy whipped cream:** 3/4 cup
- **Confectioners sugar:** 3 tbsp
- **Finely chopped pistachios:** 1/2 cup
- **Sugar:** 1.5 cups
- **Ghee:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Heat a non-stick kadhai over medium-low and add grated coconut, sugar, and cream. Mix them and continue to cook while stirring continuously till the mixture turns yellowish-golden in colour.
- Add cardamom powder and confectionery sugar to the kadhai after it has been taken off the heat.
- Use ghee to grease a thali or a 9-inch square pan. Spread the ingredients evenly after pouring it into the prepared pan.
- Sprinkle finely-chopped pistachio and let the coconut barfi set for an hour or so in the refrigerator. Slice the barfi into equal pieces.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

PARIVRTTA PARSVAKONASANA NAMASTE HANDS

The Revolved Side Angle Pose is a combination of twist and balance. It helps stimulate the visceral organs in the chest and abdominal area. Strength and flexibility of the spine is improved, and fresh blood is supplied to the internal organs.

STEPS

- From Uttanasana inhale and take your left foot back and come to Runners Lunge Pose.
- Exhale, align right leg at 90-degree angle with the right knee stacked on the right ankle and left leg extended, knee off the floor. Remain here for about 3-4 breaths, pushing the hips down when exhaling.
- Inhale and exhale, release the left hand and twist your upper chest, shoulders, upper abdomen towards your right, and gently bring the left elbow outside the right outer knee.
- Exhale completely. Inhale and bring the hands in Namaskar Mudra, aligning your feet, hips, shoulders, and head. Expand the chest, look up, keeping the head engaged.
- Extend the left leg with the toes. Settle into the pose. Bring awareness to the abdomen (mainly nabi), pulling the belly in.
- Remain in Parivrtta Parsvakonasana for 2-3 breaths, initially and then slowly move to 4-6 breaths. Keep your neck relaxed, yet active.
- Inhale, release the pose and exhale completely.
- Relax for a few breaths and perform on the other side. Release and relax in Balasana.

BENEFITS

- Stretches shoulders, neck, quadriceps, psoas, hamstrings and neck muscles.
- Strengthens the angles and feet.
- Opens intercostal muscles and enhances rib cage cavity.
- Ensures fresh blood supply towards heart, lungs and upper abdomen.
- Takes in more air that eventually gets converted to energy (prana).
- Builds confidence in the breath-body connections.
- Helps gain better awareness in the physical body.
- Ensures the right flow of vayu in the entire body.
- Prana moves smoothly.
- Ensures smooth process of udana vayu, apana vayu and samana vayu.
- Massages the visceral organs of the abdomen and chest.
- Stimulates the jatharagni (metabolic fire) in the body.

LIMITATIONS

People having injuries or undergone recent surgeries, weak body frames, arthritis-knees or ligament tear, migraine, balancing issues, spinal disorders, peptic ulcers, abdominal hernia, or any serious colon ailments, senior citizens, pregnant women must avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

THAPPAD (Hindi)

Amrita, a young woman, and her husband Vikram have a happy existence together. But their joy is short-lived as he slaps her at a work party, prompting her to petition for divorce.

Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Pavail Gulati, Dia Mirza
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

KUTTEY (Hindi)

Three wayward gangs accidentally meet paths while on the hunt one rainy night in the suburbs of Mumbai, and it's every man for himself.

Cast: Arjun Kapoor, Kumud Mishra, Tabu
Watch on: Netflix

VEERAMAE VAAGAI SOODUM (Tamil)

The goal of a young man is to become a police officer like his father. But, he takes matters into his own hands to find the murderers when his sister is killed.

Cast: Vishal, Dimple Hayathi, Raveena Ravi
Watch on: ZEE5

VARATHAN (Malayalam)

Aby and his wife Priya relocate to the latter's family estate in Kerala after Aby loses his job. Yet, when they face a fresh set of difficulties, the couple's situation continues to deteriorate.

Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Aishwarya Lekshmi
Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

SPYDER (Telugu)

An intelligence officer named Shiva creates phone software that enables him to locate people who require assistance. When he learns that a serial killer is on the loose, he sets out to safeguard the citizens of Hyderabad.

Cast: Mahesh Babu, Rakul Preet
Watch on: Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

DIA (Kannada)

Dia waits three years before telling Rohith she loves him, but after a tragic tragedy, she learns he won't make it. She learns that Rohith is still alive later on when she starts meeting Adi.

Cast: Kushi, Pruthvi Ambaar
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

PIKU (Hindi)

Despite their different views and arguments over insignificant concerns, Piku, an architect, and her ageing but negative father Bhaskor Banerjee become closer as a result of their road trip to Kolkata.

Cast: Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan
Watch on: Sony LIV

FOREIGN

TRAIN TO BUSAN (Korean)

On the latter's birthday, Seok-woo is travelling to Busan with his daughter to visit his wife. When they become stuck in South Korea's zombie outbreak, the trip becomes a nightmare.

Cast: Gong Yoo, Ma Dong-seok, Jung Yu-mi
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

GHOST DOCTOR (Korean, series)

A brilliant surgeon goes into a coma and is given a first-year resident who is the complete antithesis of him both professionally and personally.

Cast: Kim Bum, Ji Hoon Jung, Llee
Watch on: Netflix

WITH LOVE (English, Series)

Over the holidays, Lily and Jorge Diaz, siblings, are each on a quest to find love and meaning.

Cast: Emeraude Toubia, Rome Flynn
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

LOVE WEDDING REPEAT (English)

As Jack works to ensure his younger sister has the ideal wedding day, multiple iterations of the same wedding take place.

Cast: Eleanor Tomlinson, Olivia Munn, Sam Claflin
Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Sony LIV:	₹ 299 per month
Zee5:	₹ 399 for 3 months
Disney+Hotstar:	₹ 199 for 3 months
Netflix:	₹ 149 per month

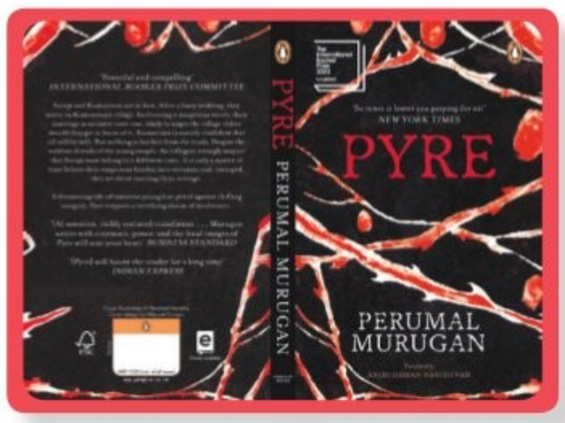
BURNING DOWN POWER IN PYRE

Longlisted for the International Booker Prize, Perumal Murugan emphasises the need to document caste violence in fiction

ARCHITA RAGHU

IN Perumal Murugan's *Pyre*, the lyrical notes of Illaiyaraaja's *Aathu Mettula* (in *Gramathu Athiyayam*), and Ceylon Radio echoing from a transistor are inseparable from the simmering love between Kumaresan and Saroja. The soda shopworker nestles a radio to his chest — dreaming of his maiden "shining in the sunlight" — and faithfully ferries it back on a bus during a visit to his hometown on a rock in Kattuppatti.

Neighbours and relatives deliberate that the "radio box" contains a man the size of a little finger telling stories or releasing voices that fill the wind into the world. The next time Kumaresan returns to the rock, the colour of a "dried-up stream of blood", he brings Saroja. This time, Kumaresan's mother Marayi wailingly sings an *oppari* and the crowd isolates them for marrying outside their community. Set in arid Kongu Nadu with its shrubs and thorns, the tale follows the couple's mammoth task of hiding Saroja's caste and convincing the former's community to accept their union.



Published in 2014 and translated in 2016, *Pyre* or *Pookuzhi* (a pyre of flowers) recently became the first Tamil novel to make it to the International Booker Prize longlist. The judges had this to say: "An intercaste couple elopes, setting in motion a story of terrifying foreboding. Perumal Murugan is a great anatomist of power and, in particular, of the deep, deforming rot of caste hatred and violence. With flashes of fable, his novel tells a story specific and universal: how flammable are fear and the distrust of others."

Distinct dialect

As an ode to Tamil, poet Meena Kandasamy writes in *Mulligatawny Dreams* that she dreams of English with suffixes of respect, thirty-six words to call the sea, and the ability "of talking love with eyes alone." Dr Aniruddhan Vasudevan's translation perhaps reaches this English but makes one crave the original prose: "the characters speak a lot and their streams of thought too bear the distinct mark of regional speech patterns. In the Tamil text, Kumaresan's and Saroja's people speak differently; their speech is marked by rural and semi-urban variations. It has been difficult to sustain differences in translation."

Murugan ensures there is no escape from the blazing breath of this tale, and the scorching cry to burn down this system. *Pyre*, which begins parched with the scene of the couple stepping off the bus into a heat-cracked land, sets the tone for a breathless tale mixed with the searing breath of the wind, the white summer heat spread out like "white sarees", the unforgiving sun.

Every encounter is then stifled with the violence of caste from Kumaresan's grandmother handing a glass tumbler instead of the jug to Saroja and words themselves betray their community origins (Saroja's matchsticks are *vathichuppullu* but Kumaresan's called them *neruppukkuchi*). Gradually, this haunting tale mirrors the gruesome reality of caste with village leaders' voices: "The point is that he has brought a girl here about whom we know nothing. The entire village bears a mark of impurity if there is a woman here whose caste or family are unknown" or "all this mixing might work with soda colours but it doesn't in life".

Readers restlessly turn the pages hoping to find glimpses of the community accepting and celebrating their love, despite the foreboding foreshadowing. Marayi's *oppari* lingers just as Kumaresan's desperate painful questions continue to twist deep within us: "Was it such a sin to get married? Can't I marry the woman I love? In what way have I wronged anyone by doing that? She loved me with all her life. I love her the same way...Why is everyone chasing us away?"

Though far from a minuscule man in a radio box, Murugan's fingers grip voices, often poisonous, that swirl around the air. He hurls them back at the world — urging society to stare at the rot of caste. After the longlist nomination, the Tamil professor and author tells *CE* he is happy about the longlist, and shares his writing routine and love for folklore.

■ Why pick the 1980s? In a previous *The New Indian Express* interview, you mentioned the book was a tribute to E Illavarasan (a 19-year-old Dalit who was a victim of caste violence).

In the 1980s, the media had not developed so much, but nowadays the news is known because of the media. Last week, in Krishnagiri, a father of a girl and a few more people murdered a boy. Both sides belong to the same caste. It (the news) has spread to the entire of Tamil Nadu. At present, if anything happens, it reaches people because of the media. Everybody feels that these (incidents) are happening only now. In the 1980s, such incidents were occurring but there was an absence of phones and the lens of the media. So, it was convenient for me to write about that period and lots of stories were there in and around the *oorus* (villages). The surroundings and atmosphere made me choose the 1980s. Compared to earlier times, cinema played its role in the lives of people in the '70s and '80s.

■ How important is it to document caste violence and honour killing not just in media but also fiction?

We must speak about honour killing in fiction. There are so many subjects not covered by fiction. Only in the 1990s or 2000s, did literature get the freedom of expression. Anything can be a part of literature; we can speak about anything in this period. Earlier, there was some kind of a ban on writing about caste discrimination. The relationship and discrimination based on caste were not taken into literature. There was some kind of a hurdle. Especially after the 1990s, only after the centenary of BR Ambedkar, these topics could be spoken about openly.

> *I don't have any specific routine or space for writing poetry. As for fiction, I fix the time I can. I require a certain time slotted for sitting down to write*
>
> Perumal Murugan, author

■ Did the characters continue to haunt you after you finished the novel?

It took nearly four months to write this novel. I wrote it as a serial in a weekly for *Kalki*, a weekly magazine, for about 20 weeks. After penning down the novel, invariably I come out of the troubling feelings (of the) novel. For around one to two months, the subject and theme will continue to linger in my mind. It is usual to be captured by the novel. When readers express what they felt during their time, I experience the same while writing it. I don't have any specific routine or space for writing poetry. As for fiction, I fix the time I can. I require a certain time slotted for sitting down to write — that is when I can write.

■ In previous interviews, you've mentioned folklore and oral histories impacted your writing. What is the one childhood story you remember the most?

When we grow up in villages, there are always a lot of tales stemming from folk, occasions, and some stories are oral. When two people meet, there is some conversation about what happened in this *ooru*, this happened in that *ooru*, and went for a village festival. All of these tales have had some impact on my novels. Many folktales are still in my memory and I can't select one as unique.

■ *One Part Woman* has two separate sequels, why write two different endings? Is this common in Tamil literature?

It is a new, modern method. There is a model in Tamil literature where the end of one novel becomes the beginning of the other. For instance, author Jayakanthan had written a short story and changed the climax and made a novel, and wrote a resolution for the same. To my knowledge, there has never been a novel with two different endings. This is a successful experiment from my side. Readers influenced me (to experiment) with the endings and sequels. Some people thought he (Kali) died and fought, asking why should Kali die. Some readers demanded that Ponna should have died instead. Likewise, readers asked me a variety of questions and I replied that I, too, was confused. Out of this confusion, I thought why not consider the climax in two different ways — if Kali survived, how would their lives be? And two, if Kali had died, how would it be then?

■ How did you start writing?

I started writing at a very young age, during my school days and represented our school in poetry writing competitions. Even in college, I was writing short stories and when I was pursuing my postgraduate, my first story got published in a literary magazine. Only in 1991, my first novel came out in *Eru Veyyil*.

■ If you had a chance to pick a pen name, what would it be?

When I started writing, my name was Ila Murugan for (works of) poetry. Murugan is my name and Perumal is my father's name. In the 2000s, Perumal Murugan was known and so I continued writing in this name. I chose my father's name and that was appealing to the readers too.

■ A feature film is set to come out soon on *Pyre*. Who would you pick as Saroja and Kumaresan? What are you working on?

It is a director's choice. My part is only to write dialogues and the director has come up with a screenplay after discussions with me. By the end of this year or early next year, this film will be released. As I'm writing the dialogues, I am planning for a few short stories. I'm writing a few unfinished novels. Last January, my novel *Nedu Neram* on the pandemic period was released.

■ Book recommendations.

Few Tamil novels are translated into English and many exist that could be translated. Many novels have been written by good authors. Sundara Ramaswamy and Ashokamitran have been published in English. Salma and Imayam are good too.

Why hair botox is a thing

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums)

IF you are one of those people who wants to try botox and haven't yet gathered the courage to take the injections, then you must get hair botox done. For the uninitiated, hair botox does not inject botulinum toxin. Instead, it is the latest fancy term in the beauty industry to revive and rejuvenate your hair by deep conditioning your tresses. Just like how your skin ages and loses elasticity, the hair too loses its shine and texture, volume and bounce due to the chemicals and heat treatments. To regain this texture and strengthen your hair, hair botox is a treatment that uses vitamins, oils, peptides, and collagen and thus it replenishes the hair.

What is hair botox?

It is an advanced conditioning treatment to fill in the individual strands that become frayed due to overheating with tools and chemicals. The fibre that fills in the hair makes it stronger and gives it a healthier bounce and sheen. But the key ingredient that differentiates it with conditioning treatment is collagen apart from the caviar oil, argan oil, or jojoba oil, the antioxidants that smoothen the hair by restoring the hair cuticle. Since binding the moisture or sealing it in is very important, the process takes almost 90 to 120 minutes.

"Hair botox has become the largest global trend seen across all premium salons in the world and is the healthier alternative compared to all keratin, smoothening, and straightening treatments. This botox restores hair health and rejuvenates dry damaged hair while filling up hair fibres. Unlike keratin and straightening treatments, hair botox also gives you the flexibility of retaining the original texture/waviness of your hair or going for a relaxed straight look," says Rajesh Dsouza, director, NUcare India.

Hair botox or keratin?

■ Both have different strengths and what could be better would vary as per your hair goals. Keratin will straighten out your curls, while hair botox will just make it frizz-free.

■ Keratin is a chemical treatment that uses formaldehyde while hair botox doesn't use it. Instead, it uses hydrolised elastin and moisturises and sealing oils to hydrate it.

■ Keratin is cheaper than hair botox so it could be more cost effective.

■ Keratin might last longer than hair botox, up to 4-6 months, while botox will last for 10 weeks or so.

■ Since the market is competitive, newer forms of keratin also are being introduced which seem to be using natural products.

Geeta Rao, founder of Glossnglass Salon and Makeup Academy uses keratin for bouncy hair. She says, "Keratin is a protein treatment and there are latest additions in the national market that are using the natural form of keratin 'juvexin'. Keratin gives 90 percent relaxed/ frizz-free hair leaving it shiny."

How much is to be used?

Whether it is keratin treatment or hair botox, both are effective in giving shinier and healthier hair. It maintains the hair and works like magic, ironing worries and filling up the gaps to make it look smooth. But repetitive treatments could make hair weaker, leading to thinning and anti-breakage. So thrice a year is a good number to maintain natural lustre.

Hair care regimen after hair botox or keratin treatment

Use a sulphate-free shampoo and conditioner to make it last longer. Since fine hair is prone to looking flat due to the overload of protein that weighs the hair down, use a lightweight conditioner.

This treatment makes the hair look shinier, frizz-free, and manageable. Hair botox or not, use good masks, homemade or otherwise. No amount of TLC is good enough for your hair and this treatment with its fancy name is a reminder of the same.

Vampire Survivors: Endless fun!

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

A surprising victory in the 'Best Game' category in last week's BAFTA game awards was a tiny game called 'Vampire Survivors'. I didn't see this coming — 2D graphics, and limited controls ... it didn't seem very interesting, I considered rewatching the *Twilight* movies for my vampire fix. But the moment I was thrown into this endless wasteland with several creatures of the night at my heel, my opinions changed.

All you need to do, is pick a character and a map, and then start running for your life. The only task we're left with is to then collect enough gems to level-up, and then upgrade the weaponry.

Speaking of weapons — the game has you covered, like a vampire's cloak against the bright sunshine. There's a garlic shield, that melts the enemies that approach you. A 'King Bible' that circles you ominously, beating down any enemies in its path. The fire wand releases fiery destruction in random directions, and there's even an axe that does a powerful flop around the screen.

These weapons come in handy as the levels progress. Many hours in the game, I am no longer a 'Vampire Survivor'. I'm a victim that now must play while watching a movie or listening to an audiobook. The game is available to play on the Xbox, Windows, Mac, Android and iOS.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARCHANA MITHALAKKE HEGDE** and **ARCHANA HEGDE.M** W/o **S Vijaykumar,** R/at No.17, 7th Cross, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, Bangalore- 560040, have changed my name to **ARCHANA VIJAYKUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 8/4/2023 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHREYES H.G** S/o **Giridhara H.C**, R/at No.215, Anagodu Hobli, Hunasuru Taluk, Mysore- 571105 (Camp at Bangalore) have changed my name to **SHREYAS H.G** vide affidavit dated: 8/4/2023 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

NAME DECLARATION
I, J.S. RAJSHEKAR, S/o. K. Siddananjaiah, aged about 61 years, R/at No.75/20, 8th Cross, 17th Main Road, J.C.Nagar, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560086.
My name J.S.Rajshekar as entered in all my Aadhar Card, pan card & other Documents.
but my name has been appeared in the passport as "RAJASHEKHARA", my correct name is "J.S.Rajshekar",
I declare that my name **"J.S.RAJSHEKAR" instead of "RAJASHEKHARA**, vide affidavit date:**04-05-2023** sworn before **K.Venkata**, Advocate & Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K. SHARADA W/o. Madhu Kumar Varma, residing at C-309, 3rd Floor, Cassia Block, Brigade Millennium, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to SHARADA, vide affidavit dated 30.03.2023, sworn before notary K Surabhi Durga.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K M HEMA BOHRA,** D/o. Jagdish Singh, Residing at No. 20, Nellurahalli Colony, Whitefield Post, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name to **HEMA BOHRA,** vide affidavit dated: 28.02.2023 before notary **ZIAULLA,** Kolar Dist.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SUKANYA .P Residing at No. 527/A-1, 91st Cross, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560078. Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SUKANYA .P** to **(NEW NAME) SUKANYA** Vide affidavit dated 08.04.2023 sworn before Notary K.C. Shashikala Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PREKSHA P J**, D/o Jayanna .P, R/at Flat No.307, Karthika Residency, 3rd Cross, 14th Main, E-Block, Bangalore-560092. Do hereby declare that as per my Aadhar Card My Name is **PREKSHA PAVADASHETTAR JAYANNA** and in my Passport it is wrongly mentioned as **PREKSHA PAVADASHETRA** and My Mother's Name as Pinky alias Poornima Korishetra instead of **PURNIMA PAVADASHETTAR**. Both the names belongs to me only and henceforth my name will be **PREKSHA PAVADASHETTAR JAYANNA** only, Vide affidavit dated 06.04.2023 sworn to before Advocate and Notary **L B Anasuyamma**, Banglore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K V SUNITHA W/O MAGAJI NAGARAJ SHEKAR,** previously called **SUNITHA SHEKAR W/O MAGAJI NAGARAJ SHEKAR,** R/o at No. 93, LIC Colony, WOC Road, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru – 560079, Karnataka, India, have changed my name as **K V SUNITHA W/O MAGAJI NAGARAJ SHEKAR** vide affidavit dated 06-04-2023 sworn before Notary Uday Kariyappa. B. G., Bengaluru. Henceforth all my transactions & dealings will be in my new name **K V SUNITHA W/O MAGAJI NAGARAJ SHEKAR.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHA DASAPPA** D/o **Dasappa C.K,** R/at No.56/1, Krishna Road, Corner House, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name to **ASHA MULLUR DASAPPA** and **ASHA M.D** vide affidavit dated: 8/4/2023 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KIRAN B.S.** S/o **Shanth Kumar** R/at No.04, Hanumantha Nagar, Bileshivale, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name to **VAMSHI KIRAN B.S** Vide affidavit dated: 8/4/2023 Before Notary **Deepa.M** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GUTTA LOKESH PRASAD, residing at No. 72, 5th Cross, Dasarahalli Main Road, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, H.A.Farm Post, Bangalore-560024, have changed my Minor Son's name from **GUTTA CHARAN GANDHI** to **GUTTA CHARITH** vide affidavit Dated 25/03/2023 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRIYANKA DUBEY,** W/o, Aditya Dubey, aged 38 years, R/at Flat No. 71801, Tower 7, Nikoo Homes-1, Bhartiya City, Thanisandra Main Road, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064, Karnataka, have changed my name from **PRIYANKA JOHN** (Old Name), to **PRIYANKA DUBEY** (New Name), vide affidavit dated:08-04-2023, sworn before Advocate & Notary Public, B. Seshagiri, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SWAPNAMOL A K Residing at No. Flat No-107, 7th and 8th Cross, Kalkere, Bengaluru - 560043. Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SWAPNAMOL A K** to **(NEW NAME) SWAPNA AYYUR KUNHNIL** Vide affidavit dated 06.04.2023 sworn before Notary S.R. Nanjunda Swamy. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I SHREYA P J, D/o Jayanna .P, R/at Flat No.307, Karthika Residency, 3rd Cross, 14th Main, E-Block, Bangalore-560092. Do hereby declare that as per my Aadhar Card My Name is **SHREYA PAVADASHETTAR JAYANNA** and in my Passport it is wrongly mentioned as **SHREYA PAVADASHETRA** AND My Mother's Name as Pinky alias Poornima Korishetra instead of **PURNIMA PAVADASHETTAR**. Both the names belongs to me only and henceforth my name will be **SHREYA PAVADASHETTAR JAYANNA** only, Vide affidavit dated 06.04.2023 sworn to before Advocate and Notary **L B Anasuyamma**, Banglore.

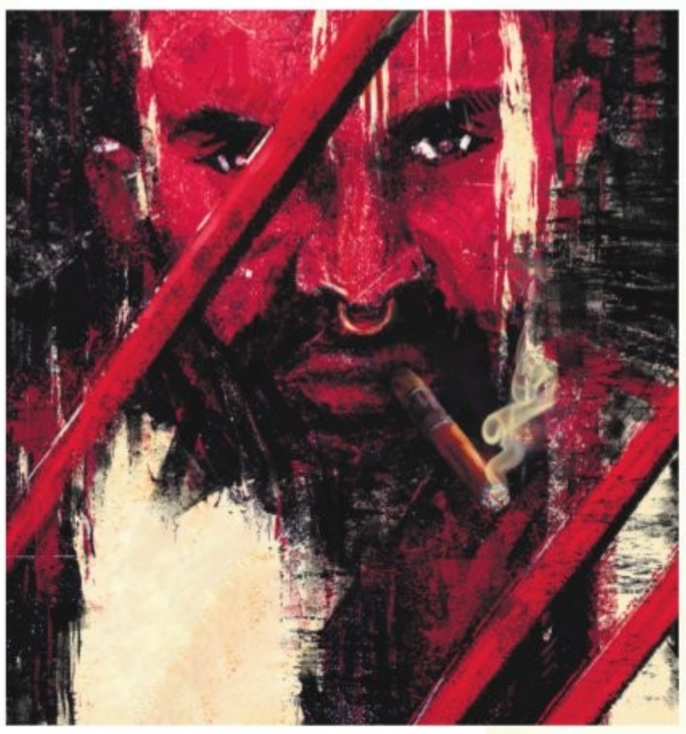
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. Chandra Mohan, son of Mr.A.Siddaiah, aged about 55 years, resident of #595, Sathanur, Sathanur Post Office, Krishnarajpet, Mandya Dist-571402 have changed my son's name from **SIDDARTH C MOHAN** to **JAYANTH CHANDRA MOHAN** vide affidavit dated 06.04.2023 sworn to before Hegde Ganapati Venkataraman, Advocate and Notary, Bangalore

For Classified Ads Contact
Mr. Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

YOGI-SHOONYA PROJECT TITLED *ROSY*

The actor speaks on the sidelines of the launch of his 50th film; a stylized gangster drama directed by Shoonya

A SHARADHAA



WE had earlier reported that Yogi was collaborating with his *Headbush* director Shoonya for a stylish gangster drama. The film was officially launched today, and actor Dhananjay announced the title to be *Rosy*.

At the title launch event, Yogi thanked Dhananjay and said, that he has a special bond with the actor. "I don't get too close to people. However, we both are like-minded, and that keeps us connected."

Delving into his journey as an actor, Yogi said, " In cinema, director Suri was my first guru. Over the years, I have met a lot of people, who have helped me evolve as an actor." Thanking his fans for standing by him from day 1 of his career, Yogi said, "Life comes with a lot of ups and down. I don't regret my past, and only hope to do good films in the future."

Briefing about *Rosy,* which is a stylised gangster drama backed by Rajesh, Yogi said, "I tried starring in romantic films, and comedy dramas, but they didn't really work in my favour. So I felt I should get back to my roots of doing a gangster drama. *Rosy* is not a typical gangster film and is not based on a real-life incident. It will be an enjoyable ride."

Yogi

Shooting for *Tridevi* took me back to *Moggina Manasu* days: Shubha Poonja

CE FEATURES

SHUBHA Poonja, who marked her debut with the multistarrer *Moggina Manasu* (2008), is happy that her next film, *Tridevi* is also a multistarrer. "Content is a priority, and films with multiple stars help to highlight our performance. *Tridevi,* which also stars Sandhya and Jyotsna, was mostly filmed inside the woods of Wayanad and Coorg, and the experience while shooting for this film, took me back to my *Moggina Manasu* days," says Shubha, who also thanked Ashwin Mathrew for giving her the opportunity. "With Ashwin behind the camera, the entire team was on the run, and he made sure to take out the required performances from all of us. The film explores the adventurous trip of the three girls and the consequences they face after entering the forest."

Fedel Ashok and Kununmani Kumar have handled the music and cinematography, respectively.

Shubha Poonja

A still from the film

VISHNU PRIYA'S CLIMAX RESHOT

CE FEATURES

SHREYAS Manju's next *Vishnu Priya*, a romantic drama is currently in post-production, and the makers recently released the teaser.

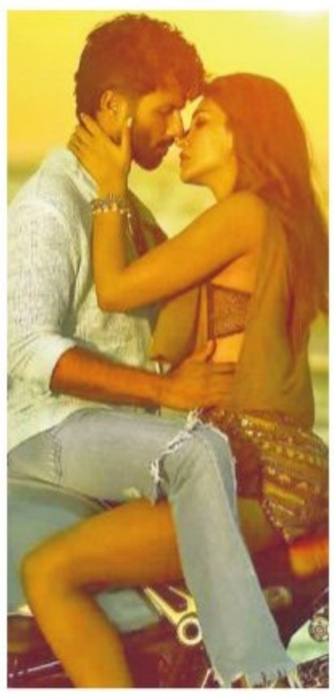
Apart from this update, producer K Manju, who has bankrolled the project, also revealed that the makers have reshot the climax. "We were not satisfied with the climax, so we went for an alternative," says Manju, who is planning to release the film in June.

VK Prakash, the National Award-winning director who has helmed films in Malayalam, Telugu, and Tamil, has directed Vishnu Priya. The romantic drama also marks the debut of Malayalam actor Priya Varrier in Kannada.

Incidentally, *Vishnu Priya,* penned by Sindhu Shree from Dharwad, was selected out of 65 stories.

Set in the 90s, *Vishnu Priya* is a romantic film that is also heavy on family values. While Gopi Sundar composed the music, the lyrics are written by Nagendra Prasad.

Kriti Sanon and Shahid Kapoor team up for a love story



CE FEATURES

ACTORS Kriti Sanon and Shahid Kapoor will be teaming up for a love story film, which will be backed by Jio Studios and Maddock Films. The makers on Saturday took to announce that the shooting of the film has been wrapped up. The film is yet to be titled. The makers also released a poster of the film, which shows Shahid and Kriti sitting on a bike as they lead on for a kiss, against the backdrop of a beach sunset.

Written and directed by Amit Joshi and Aradhana Sah, Dinesh Vijan, Jyoti Deshpande and Laxman Utekar serve as producers. It is to be noted that the upcoming film will mark the first time Kriti and Shahid will be sharing the screen space.

The film will release sometime in October 2023.

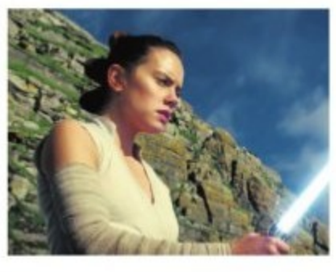
Daisy Ridley returns to *Star Wars*

CE FEATURES

LUCASFILM has unveiled a new film set 15 years after *The Rise of Skywalker* which will star Daisy Ridley as she returns to the role of Rey Skywalker.

The untitled film will focus on the formation of a new Jedi Order led by Rey, and will be directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, the director of Ms Marvel. Rey has taken on the title of Jedi Master in the film.

Ridley was last seen in *The Rise of Skywalker* where her character claimed the name of Skywalker following her defeat of her grandfather, Sheev Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid) at the conclusion of the movie. The sequel trilogy was based around her character and her rise from nobody into Jedi as she joined forces with Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher) and Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) while battling against Adam Driver's Kylo Ren.



Veeram, a run-of-the-mill actioner, brings back Prajwal Devaraj in a mass avatar

A SHARADHAA

VEERAM

Director: Khadar Kumar

Cast: Prajwal Devaraj, Kitty, Shruti, Achyuth Kumar, Rachita Ram, and Deepak

KHADAR Kumar's much-anticipated *Veeram* finally hit the screens this past week. The first-time director sticks to a safe template of an age-old family drama with over-the-top action designed to elevate the hero's star status.

Veeram begins with Sadashiva (Achyuth), his wife Saraswathi (Shruthi), and her two brothers Narasimha and Veeru (Prajwal Devaraj), who are considered their children. However, circumstances lead to a hot-headed Narasimha being involved in a crime. A livid Saraswathi throws him out of the house and trains all her focus on her younger brother, Veeru. Unfortunately, Veeru, who is attending a campus interview, ends up at the police station along with his brother. The two are booked for the murder of Deva (Raja Belawadi), a rowdy who is involved in the market mafia. Then, Deva's son, Jeda (Deepak), kills Narasimha. Will Veeru go against his sister, and take revenge for his brother's death? Will he succeed in making his sister forgive him? These form the rest of the film.

With sibling sentiments being the central theme, Khadar Kumar presents us with a done-and-dusted family drama. The film, which elevates Prajwal Devaraj as a mass hero, however, comes with a predictable screenplay, and a host of villains. The film's romantic element comes in the form of Rachita Ram, who plays Veeru's college friend and is his strong emotional support.

The director has tried to tackle important subjects but the making is cliched and formulaic. Prajwal Devaraj as Veeru has a tattoo of Sahasimha inked on his right wrist to show his love for his sister, who is a big fan of Vishnuvardhan. The tattoo comes into the picture during the mass moments, especially a major action sequence.

Veeram turns out to be a positive push for Prajwal Devaraj, who has enjoyed playing this mass role. Individually, the actor, who had worked for this character with a new hairstyle, and has worked out his body language.

Shruti's role brings that emotional connection among siblings and all the sentiment is brought through her. Kitty makes a strong presence in limited screentime, and is well supported by actor Achyuth Kumar.

Veeram falls into the slew of films, which brings in a dozen of villains to face the hero, and Deepak as an antagonist takes the lead. There is nothing much to highlight about Rachita Ram's role, except that she plays a love interest, and her presence is felt in a few sequences and a song. With Giri Shivanna in the picture, people expected some comical relief, but he too turned out to be part of the serious scenes.

Anoop Seelin has come up with a couple of good melodies, and has delivered a convincing BGM score. This film is strictly for those, who wanted to see Prajwal Devaraj in a mass hero avatar, and for those who are still open to watching and enjoying commercial entertainers.